

»» **62** CLASSIC COLLECTABLES!
IN OUR AUCTION PRICE GUIDES!

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

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VINTAGE STAR WARS

SPECIAL
FEATURE

Find out how Kenner almost missed out on the galaxy's biggest toy franchise and whether the bubble will ever burst for Star Wars collectables

Plus a look at...

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with a passion for
this cult game



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This month, Best of British recalls the fascinating history of DCMT/Lone Star

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CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE...

03 NEWS

The latest news from the world of collecting.

05 NEWS IN BRIEF

A round-up of stories from auctions, toy fairs and more!

11 READER OFFER

Find out about our latest money-saving offer.

13 THROUGH THE ARCHIVES

We look back through some classic issues of the *Collectors Gazette*.

14 VINTAGE STAR WARS TOYS

Find out more about the creation of Star Wars and why it's become so collectable.

18 PLAYCRAFT RAILWAYS

Mark Nolan guides you through these cheap and cheerful train sets from France.

20 THRILL OF THE RACE

Ann Evans meets a collector with a passion for Tri-ang Jump Jockey sets.

22 BEST OF BRITISH

This issue Brian Howes looks at the history of DCMT/Lone Star.

26 EASY AS ABC...

In this new column, Alwyn Brice proves he knows his alphabet.

29 AUCTION PRICE GUIDE

Find out if your toys could be worth hundreds, if not thousands, in our auction round-up.

34 EBAYS

Our guide to what's been selling well on eBay this month.

36 MARVELS IN MIDHURST

Alwyn Brice travels to a new fair and has an interesting encounter with sheep.

38 SANDOWN TOY FAIR

Rick Wilson chooses his favourites from the UK's best toy fair.

39 EVENT GUIDE

Plan your diary for the month ahead with our toy fair and auction listings.

44 OBSOLETE OZ

What has Oz uncovered this month?

46 SALES & EXCHANGE

Buy/sell collectables and place your wanted adverts.

■ AUCTION REPORT

BONDING WITH 007

Along with Batman and Star Wars, James Bond is really one of the TV and film icons that commands a lot of attention when it comes to merchandise. From the Corgi Aston Martin to numerous replica guns, if a toy bears the Bond name then it's likely to grab the attention of bidders in a sale. This was certainly the case during Vectis' special James Bond auction in November that, alongside the more typical toys, included a whole host of memorabilia inspired by 007, like promotional briefcases, posters and even perfume! However, it's the toys we'll concentrate on here.

The star of the show, if you'll pardon the pun, was a Lone Star James Bond Secret Agent Set, which included a pistol with silencer, gun, hand grenades, handcuffs, holster, binoculars, camera, agent 007 identity card, special 007 agent badge and knife... perfect for the wannabe spy. The condition of the items was generally good plus – although Vectis did note it could be better with a little clean – while the attaché case-style box was generally good. With an estimate of £400 to £500, someone clearly felt a bond with the item and paid £1,140 for it. Another piece that stirred up interest



Above: Lone Star James Bond 007 Harpoon Gun.



Above: Unusual Corgi passport, created by Marcel van Cleemput.



Right: Eida Grip Corporation Lotus Esprit.

was a Lone Star James Bond Harpoon Gun taken from the film *Thunderball*. This impressive toy came in an equally impressive box with artwork showing James Bond struggling to best his attackers underwater. In good condition, with two rockets, the harpoon hit its mark at £432. Although Corgi is best known for producing vehicles inspired by the adventures of Bond, other manufacturers have also had a stab at producing iconic cars from the films. Take, for example, the Eidai Grip Corporation No. 102 Lotus Esprit taken from the film *The Spy Who Loved Me*. This colourful car, which is capable

of shooting missiles from a hidden panel under the bonnet sold for £620.

Finally, one of the more interesting items did come from Corgi, however it might not be quite what you're expecting. Legendary Corgi designer Marcel van Cleemput created a special James Bond 'passport', which was basically a small fold out leaflet containing black and white stills of Roger Moore being presented with a gold Lotus Esprit model. Direct from the collection of Marcel van Cleemput, it sold for £696, after being estimated at £100 to £150. ■

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■ This is one of two extremely impressive live steam models that will be featured in Sheffield Auction Gallery's live internet Special Collectable Toys & Models Auction on 4th February. This live steam model of a Claymorth Steam Lorry measures more than five feet and took three years to complete.

■ AUCTION REPORT

OUT FOR THE COUNT

Bidders turn out for the sale of the Rodney Count Toy Collection at Lacy, Scott & Knight in Bury St Edmunds.



An impressive piece to pop in your display cabinet.



Miller racing cars, available in red and yellow at Lacy, Scott & Knight.

THERE was a huge sense of anticipation ahead of the Rodney Count Toy Collection sale at Lacy, Scott & Knight last month, as the auction featured around 700 lots of toys and collectables, which had been collected by Rodney over a 50-year period.

As Lacy, Scott & Knight's toy expert Oliver Legget explains, the selection of pieces was really something special. "Rodney lived all his life in the village of Fordham, Cambridgeshire, and whilst a very keen gardener, it was clear from the moment we stepped foot into Rodney's House, that his main passion was toy collecting.

"Rodney's enthusiasm began 50 years ago when his

wife Marion, after travelling to her native Scotland, brought back a single toy as a present for Rodney. From this moment on, Rodney and Marion indulged their interest with a passion as they regularly visited toy fairs, swapmeets, steam rallies and toy auctions, buying a diverse range of toys but with a strong liking for tinplate toys of all shapes and size."

Among the items that were causing a stir before the auction even started was a Dinky Toys No. 935 Leyland Octopus Flat Truck with chains. This was "the rare version with blue cab and chassis, yellow cab flash, pale grey flat bed and hubs". Despite missing its box, the truck had an estimate of £1,000 to £1,200 and sold for a

staggering £1,700.

Another nice lot was a Corgi Toys Gift Set 37 Lotus Racing Team, including a 490 VW breakdown truck, red trailer, Lotus Climax Formula 1 racing car, Lotus Elan 52, Lotus Elan 52 hard top, sealed pack of cones, Corgi Model Club leaflet and two sets

of racing number stickers unused (numbers seven and two). With a pre-sale estimate of £300 to £500, the hammer fell right in the middle at £400.

Elsewhere a couple of tinplate Gilbow cars sold well above their estimates, despite being relatively modern releases. Both were based on

the classic Miller racing car and were limited editions. One was finished in red, while the other was a bright yellow. The red edition had an estimate of £80 to £120 but sold for £360, while the yellow version was estimated at £100 to £120 and realised £380. ■



Dinky Toys No. 935 Leyland Octopus Flat Truck with chains.

**NEW RELEASES
THIS MONTH**

HOT WHEELS ELITE ASTON MARTIN DB5 JAMES BOND GOLDFINGER

Release: Out now Price: £69.99

If we're honest, when it comes to Bond's Aston Martin DB5 you really can't beat the Corgi version and, sadly, Hot Wheels' effort (although detailed) falls short of the mark. Save yourself some cash and pick up the recent Corgi re-issue. » www.hotwheels-elite.com



EXCLUSIVE FIRST EDITIONS BEDFORD TK BOXVAN

Release: Out now Price: £31

Here's a neat release from EFE that's sure to find a home on plenty of model railway layouts. The printing on the side is absolutely pin sharp, while the detailing on the cab is neat too. It's certainly all white by us!

» www.exclusivefirsteditions.com



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■ AUCTION REPORT

ACTION STATIONS

C&T Auctioneers offers up an interesting handful of Action Man figures during its November toy sale.

WHILE America had GI Joe, over here in Blighty we had good ol' Action Man. With his flock hair and slightly spooky Eagle Eyes he became something of a British icon in the 1960s and 1970s before finally bowing to the pressures of the sci-fi invasion, thanks to Star Wars.

Nonetheless, due to his iconic status, Action Man is still a very collectable toy today, as proved by a small collection that went on sale during C&T Auctioneers' Fine Dolls, Teddy Bears, Juvenalia & Action Man auction last month. The first Action Man out of the bunker was a scarce Air Police version, complete with white helmet, grey field phone and case, carbine rifle, bayonet, boots, red scarf, truncheon, white belt, pistol/holster and correct 1970s issue trousers/tunic. In near mint condition, the Air Policeman was estimated at £100 to £150 but realised £280.

Another pricey piece was a first issue Parachute Regiment in combat jacket, trousers, cloth beret, scarf, puttees, boots, SLR rifle,



Air Police Action Man, sold at C&T Auctioneers.

bayonet and scabbard, with two ammo boxes, supply parachute and netting. Described as being in excellent condition, the Action Man dropped in at £150. ■



OXFORD DIECAST FORD TRANSIT MK1

Release: Out now Price: £4.95

Yes, this Ford Transit may not be the most sexy diecast model out there but it's sure to be exceptionally versatile. It's actually a new tooling from Oxford Diecast and lives up to the company's usual high standards. Useful... if not exceptional.

» www.oxforddiecast.co.uk

26

Alwyn Brice will be highlighting 26 toys/companies in his new column, see pg. 26.

60

2015 was the 60th anniversary of iconic British company Airfix.

120

There will be 120 tables at the Cardiff Toy & Train sale in January.

04

We've got a special four-page feature detailing the history of Star Wars collectables on page 14.

700

There were 700 lots in the Rodney Count collection at Lacy, Scott & Knight in November.

NEWS IN BRIEF

» AIRFIX BATTLES

Here's an interesting new product for those of you that like Airfix kits and don't mind a bit of wargaming now and again. Modiphius Entertainment, who recently published a rather excellent Thunderbirds 50th anniversary boardgame, is producing rules for a wargame that allows you to use your Airfix models to battle it out on the tabletop. Airfix Battles comes with maps, counters, rulebooks, mission books and special cards to bring your existing Airfix models to life. That's right, you can use all those soldiers, planes and tanks you already own in the game, without buying anything new. "Airfix Battles is a fantastic idea, and brings the wonderful world of Airfix to a new audience!" commented Jim Procter-Blain, marketing controller for Hornby Hobbies. "It now means that consumers can not only enjoy making and painting Airfix models, but can enjoy battling with them too. Twice the fun!" Airfix Battles is due for release in April 2016 and further expansions are planned throughout the year. So, now's a perfect time to dust off your old soldiers.

» SIXTY YEARS OF AIRFIX MODELS

While we're on the subject of Airfix, The Crowood Press has just released a brand new book telling the story of the iconic plastic kits maker. *Sixty Years of Airfix Models* by Jeremy Brook (who has been making Airfix kits since the 1950s) charts the birth of Airfix in 1955 then details the decline of the company before it was eventually picked up by Hornby Hobbies in 2006. Each year is broken down into chapters, with pictures of key models - in fact, there are 350 full colour photographs. What's more, Jeremy certainly knows his stuff because he runs the Airfix Collectors' Club. *Sixty Years of Airfix Models* (ISBN 9781847979766) is available now, with an RRP of £25.

» CARDIFF TOY & TRAIN SALE

The regular collector's bonanza reaches Cardiff again shortly when Wales' largest and leading toy and train sale arrives at Penarth Leisure Centre, Cogan, between 10.30am and 3pm on Saturday, 9th January, 2016. This will be the first such event here in 2016 but organiser Chris Dyer says collectors need have no fears as three further dates have already been booked at this venue for the coming year. "Our venue in Penarth is ideal for a toy and train sale being large, well-lit, easily accessed from all areas and most importantly, Cogan Railway Station is virtually next door and many of our customers make the most of the very frequent and reasonable train services, from so many departure points. We now offer in excess of 120 tables at the Cardiff show, and these are operated by more than 50 traders from all over the UK," added Chris. "The Cardiff show is now firmly established and traders travel from as far away as North Yorkshire and East Anglia, as well as from closer to home, and it is also always fully-booked for stall-holders well in advance."

» RICH PICKINGS

Here's a note from reader Mike Fulford, which we thought was of interest: "Confirmation that an auctioneer's general sale can provide rich pickings for collectors was made when lot 339 at Anderson and Garland (18/11/15), guided at £80 to £120 fetched a hammer price of £3,800 in the room! Lot No. 339 a live steam tinplate model locomotive, by Carette for Bassett Lowke, 2-2-2, Lady of the Lake, 1-gauge, with matching tender, circa 1902; two goods wagons; together with a live steam locomotive, possibly American, with matching tender. I believe this loco was one of the earliest by Bassett-Lowke. Anderson and Garland usually has some items of interest to collectors and did not disappoint this time with around 50 lots including Dinky, Hornby, and Corgi."

■ BOOK REVIEW

BRITISH
TOY TRAINS

We review the first in a new series of books by Michael D. Foster.

Title: British Toy Trains
Author: Michael D. Foster
Price: £18
ISBN: 978-0-9932047-0-8



TYPICALLY when you think of model locomotives, it's likely your mind will immediately leap to Hornby and then perhaps take a slow-paced stroll to the likes of Bassett-Lowke or perhaps Wrenn Railways. However, it's unlikely that most will think of names like Chad Valley or Palitoy... yet these well known British companies still have a part to play in the story of the hobby.

So, thank goodness for Michael D. Foster then who is hoping to chart "all those other British toy train manufacturers" in a series of four books that will take in: Burnett, Chad Valley, Astra, Mettoy, Brimtoy, etc. Although Michael was hoping to have book two out by now, there have been delays and book one has only just released, with book two around the corner for early next year.

However, the wait has certainly been worth it because this first book, which details Whitanco, Burnett, Chad Valley, Palitoy, Astra and DCMT, is an absolute delight and it's unlikely you'll find a more thorough guide to the model

trains produced by these companies.

Although many of those toys were originally available for pocket money prices, they're often particularly well made and brightly coloured. Michael tells the story of these firms through some bright full colour photographs, alongside period advertising and magazine articles. His editorial is exceptionally informative and even the most hardened toy collector is likely to learn something from Michael's in-depth asides.

The Chad Valley section is the largest and features some gorgeous photography of the various tinplate trains and accessories; in particular the Chad Valley Melody Train is a delight. What a find!

If this first book is a measure of how good the follow-ups will be, then Michael's upcoming releases will most certainly be something to watch out for because this is an absolute joy. ■

■ AUCTION REPORT

TURTLE
RECALL

Bidders left shell-shocked at Wessex Auction Rooms after Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle collection sells for more than £2,000.

CREATED by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird in 1984, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles was originally a comic book that was meant to parody Marvel's output. Printed in black and white, the first comics were a more serious affair but still featured the mutant martial arts experts.

The real breakout moment for the Turtles came in 1987 with the launch of the first animated series, which ran until 1996. During that time American toy maker Playmates produced a whole host of action figures inspired by the heroes and villains from the hugely popular show.

Skip forward a few years and Wessex Auction Rooms recently sold a super collection of carded Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles action

As well as mint in box examples, Wessex also sold a series of loose Turtles figures and vehicles.



figures featuring the heroic Turtles (Leonardo, Donatello, Michaelangelo and Raphael) alongside other characters in the show, such as Casey Jones, Fugitoid, Metalhead, etc. The majority were available for reasonable prices too, with the individual Turtles selling for around the £40 mark.

However, if you fancied

picking up the four original Turtles in their packaging, complete with unpunched and unopened cards, then you had to pay a premium and the top lot on the day featured a set of '10 Back' Playmates Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles that sold for £220... more than double the pre-sale estimate. Cowabunga dude! ■



■ You can always count on James Bond to do things in style; and it seems that exceeding pre-sale estimates at auction is also one of the things he excels at. Take, for example, this fantastic Scalextric 007 James Bond set, which had been given a pre-sale estimate of £200 to £300 at Bamfords Auctioneers but sold for an impressive £1,300! The set came with both the Aston Martin DB5 and the Bandit car, along with all the various accessories so you could recreate a high-speed chase in the safety of your living room.

NEW RELEASES
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TV SERIES BATCYCLE

Release: Out now **Price:** £149.99

It's not cheap from Hot Wheels but this is an absolute stunner! Although the Batcycle has previously been released, Hot Wheels has now added a couple of fantastic figures of the Dynamic Duo. Well worth the price for any Batfans!

» www.hotwheels-elite.com

OXFORD DIECAST MERCEDES
ACTROS MP4 CURTAINSIDE

Release: Out now **Price:** £23.95

This is the first release in Oxford's new Actros MP4 cab tooling. Eddie Stobart fans are sure to lap this one up. Modelled to a 1/76 scale, the detail and printing is excellent. A top class piece.

» www.oxforddiecast.co.uk

OXFORD RAIL ADAMS
'RADIAL' 4-4-2T

Release: Out now **Price:** £99.95

After kicking off its rail range with a handful of wagons a couple of months ago, Oxford is back with its first locomotive and, judging by this top notch effort, the established diecast maker has hit the ground running. Superb detail for a good price.

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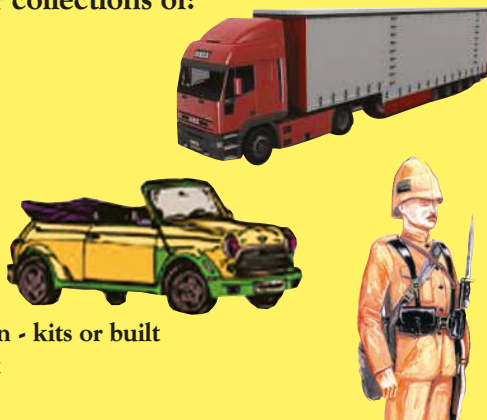
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■ AUCTION REPORT

TANKS A LOT

Scarce Hornby-Dublo tank locomotive trebles its estimate at Wallis & Wallis latest sale.

AS usual Wallis & Wallis had all manner of collectors covered in its November Toys, Militaria and Arms & Armour auction, whether your collectable of choice was diecast, model railways or toy soldiers, there was bound to be something in the sale to tickle your fancy.

Among the interesting lots was a scarce Hornby-Dublo class N2 0-6-2 tank locomotive in Southern green livery, RN 2594. The example was converted



Scarce Hornby-Dublo class N2 0-6-2 tank locomotive in Southern green livery, RN 2594.

from 3-rail to 2-rail running and was in good to very good condition with some light wear/chipping. With an estimate of £100 to £150, the bidders pushed the price way past that to £310.

Elsewhere in the sale, a couple of Dinky lots also proved popular. First was a Dinky Supertoys No. 501 Foden Diesel 8-wheel Wagon – an early example in chocolate brown with black wheel arches and chassis, plus a silver flash to cab sides and no rear hook. It came in an

early utility-style box with red/white label and was in very good condition with only a few minor chips. The wagon was estimated at £175 to £200 and realised just over that at £230.

Another Dinky treat came courtesy of a No. 2 Commercial Vehicles Gift Set, including a Bedford End Tipper (No. 25m), Austin Covered Wagon (30s), Studebaker Petrol Tanker (30pb), Land Rover (No. 27d) and a Farm Produce Wagon (30h). All were in quite good condition with some chipping, while the Land Rover had one tyre missing and the Austin wagon was missing a light. Nonetheless, the Gift Set nudged past its low estimate to achieve £230. ■

■ AUCTION REPORT

GREEN WITH ENVY

A scarce Matchbox Moko Lesney No. 11a ERF Road Tanker was among the choice items at Aston's in November. The tiny tanker was finished in green with a gold trim and came with a B type box.

There are several colour variations of the ERF tanker available, including dark yellow, light yellow and red. If you can track it down the most valuable, according to Ramsay's, is the red edition with three Esso decals on the side, which has a valuation of £750 to £1,000. Going back to the example at Aston's, it made £260, which was £40



Palitoy Star Wars Death Star made from cardboard.

under the low estimate.

One lot that more than doubled its pre-sale estimate was a Palitoy Star Wars Death Star, which was made from cardboard unlike the plastic

Kenner version. The Death Star included clips, laser cannons, canopy and escape chute. It was considered to be in good plus condition despite some scuffs and small surface tears. Estimated at £60 to £80 the Death Star shot its way to £160.

Also on the TV and film front was a Bell Doctor Who and the Daleks Cuttastic set that included a selection of cut and painted polystyrene pieces of famous characters from the famous show. With a low estimate of £30 to £50, the hammer finally fell on £120. ■



■ Cast your mind back a few issues ago (quite a few issues ago now actually) and we featured Corgi's marvellous gold bar edition of the James Bond Aston Martin DB5 in some detail. Although quite scarce now, they do occasionally still crop up at auction, as proved by this example that sold at Gildings Auctioneers in Market Harborough. Estimated at £300 to £500, it didn't quite reach the low estimate and sold for £250. This piece was numbered No. 18, out of 99.

MORE NEW RELEASES...

KERNOW IOW 02

Release: Out now Price: £124.99

If you're a fan of locomotives that ran around the Isle of Wight, then it's likely this particular loco will be high on your Christmas list. Kernow Model Rail Centre has done a cracking job of replicating the loco.

» www.kernowmodelrailcentre.com



KING & COUNTRY MARY, JOSEPH AND THE INFANT JESUS

Release: Out now Price: £144.95

Well, with Christmas on the horizon how could we resist this nativity scene? Admittedly, it won't be to everyone's tastes but K&C has certainly done a neat job of capturing this Biblical event. One for the mantelpiece during the festive season.

» www.kingandcountry.co.uk



SCHLEICH SNOOPY FIGURES

Release: Out now Price: £Various

With a new Snoopy film currently in cinemas, we're starting to see a few toys inspired by the famous pooch. Schleich, in particular, has a nice set of little figures that is likely to go down a storm with Snoopy fans.

» www.schleich-s.com



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■ AUCTION REPORT

TRIUMPHANT TINPLATE TOY

WARWICK & Warwick has reported another good toy sale in November, with more than 90% of the lots selling in the busy saleroom. Among the highlights was a selection of tinplate from a range of makers including Tipp & Co. and Wells.

Some hot property on the day was a Tipp & Co. fire engine with detailed tinprinting, two replacement fireman figures, fixed key mechanism and balloon wheels. Measuring 26cm, the fire engine was in good to good plus condition, with some wear to its edges. Estimated at £100, the bidders were on fire and it sold for £120.

Also on the tinplate front was a Wells pre-war 'World Service' tinplate clockwork bus measuring 17cm long. In working order, the bus was finished in red with a grey roof, balloon tyre wheels and wonderful tin printing of the passengers. It sold for £70.

Away from the tinplate there was a wide variety of model cars offered in

the Corgi section. The most sought after was a Chipperfields Circus Menagerie Transporter No. 1139 Scammell Handyman MkIII Tractor Unit and Trailer, complete with three plastic cages and animals all in their plastic packing. In about mint condition it sold for £210; more than double its estimate. ■

This fire engine was just one of the lovely tinplate toys.



■ "As an auctioneer and valuer there's nothing better than finding a special gem," explained Sheffield Auction Gallery's toy specialist John Morgan when he was recently consigned a gem of a tinplate toy for auction. The piece in question? A 100-year-old toy motorbike called 'Echo'. Brought into the saleroom by local Chesterfield vendors, the early 20th century Lehmann of Germany tinplate clockwork motorbike called Echo is to be offered at the next live internet Specialist Toy Auction at Sheffield Auction Gallery on February 4th 2016. In wonderful original condition, Sheffield Auction Gallery has placed a pre-auction estimate of £1,000 - £2,000 on it and "it is bound to create considerable interest from collectors around the world," added John Morgan. The sale will also include Sheffield Auction Gallery's usual great mix of collectables.

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■ AUCTION REPORT

HAKE'S
RAKES IT IN

Comic book heroes join forces to net a cool \$1.1m at the Hake's Americana & Collectibles Auction.

TYPICALLY when you think of superhero toys, your mind will invariably wander to the likes of Batman and his numerous gadgets. After all, there have been plenty of products bearing the Caped Crusader's image over the years, particularly in the late 1960s when the Dynamic Duo were foiling the dastardly plots of the Joker every week on television.

However, another crime-busting crusader that doesn't really get the same attention is the Green Hornet, who also had his own television show in the 1960s and featured in a radio series way back in 1936. Apart from Corgi's fantastic take on Black Beauty (the Green Hornet's vehicle of choice) it's unlikely you can think of many products featuring the heroic crime-fighter.

Despite this, one of the stars at Hake's was a fantastic Remco Official Green Hornet Working Black Beauty Dashboard, which sold for \$14,055 –



Remco Official Green Hornet Working Black Beauty Dashboard sold for more than \$14,000.

well over its \$2,000 to \$5,000 estimate. This impressive toy featured a moving steering wheel, moving speedometer, motorised windscreen wipers, horn, workable gear stick, electric indicators, glove compartment, turning radio knobs, cigarette lighter and ignition. It came from the collection of Chicago man Gary Keller, who had a small but exceptional selection of superhero items.

"The rarity and condition of key items from the Gary Keller collection played a

major role in our achieving another million-dollar-plus sale," said Alex Winter, president of Hake's. Those items included an Ideal Batman Play Set (\$10,247); a Hot Wheels Line 1970 store display with 16 diecast replica vehicles (\$6,072); and two windowpane-boxed Posin' Dolls from Ideal's quartet of "Super Queens". Wonder Woman raced to \$5,313; while Aquaman's wife, Mera, was bid to \$4,898. ■

■ AUCTION REPORT

PAVED
WITH
GOLD

Dick Whittington and his cat make an appearance at Halls in Shrewsbury.

AN excellent result during Halls' November toy auction came in the form of a rare tinplate clockwork Dick Whittington and his cat, which sold for £1,100 after competitive bidding by two telephone bidders.

Halls' toy specialist Stewart Orr said it was the first time he had seen the toy, which had no maker's

Models Bluebird II Speedboat, made in tribute to British water and land speed record breaker Donald Campbell, sold for £220. The boxed model was discovered by Halls at a recent

charity antiques valuation event in Barmouth for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Bluebird II was produced by Sutcliffe Models from



Sutcliffe Models Bluebird II Speedboat.

mark, had a broken motor and was in unrestored condition. "I suspect it was made in Germany between 1910-20," he added. "The toy had been sitting in a box in a garage for a number of years and the owner is delighted that it sold so well at auction. It's another example that highlights the importance of getting old toys assessed, as I'm sure there are lots of people who have potentially valuable toys that have been stored away and forgotten about."

Elsewhere a rare Sutcliffe

1958 but the model was not endorsed by Campbell, who died when his powerboat crashed during a world water speed record attempt on Coniston Water on 4th January, 1967. He broke eight records in the 1950s and '60s and remains the only person to set both world land and water speed records in the same year, 1964.

Other results included £200 for a quantity of Hornby Dublo platforms and buildings and £170 for a trestle mounted rocking horse, which may be destined for a posh nursery. ■

NEXT MONTH FEBRUARY 2016

» CORGI INNOVATIONS

David Boxall continues his series on Corgi's great play features.

» HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

Contributors and experts choose their favourite moments.

» BRITAINS

Best of British takes a look at the history of toy soldier maker Britains.



*Editorial contents may be subject to change where necessary

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Through the Archives

In the latest of our new series, we remember the good old days with a classic *Collectors Gazette*.

With the current focus on Star Wars, not only in this month's *Gazette*, but all the world in general at the moment, it seemed appropriate to focus on an old issue that features Star Wars quite prominently on the cover. Despite what you might think, that isn't Jim Stevenson standing in a museum exhibit... that's actually one of the rooms in his house and almost every available space is crammed with Star Wars-related toys.

At the time, Jim had the joint largest Star Wars collection in Europe and had been collecting for around six years. Interestingly, despite the fact the article was from the late 1980s, Jim was already reporting that prices were starting to creep up... although obviously they were nothing compared to today's auction prices. "My only regret is that I didn't get involved in this area of collecting 10 years earlier because value and prices throughout the '80s have shot up, quite literally, astronomically," said Jim at the time. The article also notes: "although prices have, in Jim's words gone through the roof lately, there's no guarantee they won't double again within a couple of years such is the pace of growth in this sector". Of course, looking back now we can see that doubling in price was a pretty conservative estimate, considering the staggering prices that are being achieved by some Star Wars collectables at auction.

On a similar note, elsewhere in this edition Sean Rothman describes how Batman collectables are becoming sought after items for younger collectors, particularly after the success of Tim Burton's first Batman film. In his article, Sean guides the reader through the various Batman toys available; starting, of course, with the Corgi Batmobile before taking in plastic kits by Aurora/MPC and the Tri-ang Spot-On Batmobile, along with a few others.

Finally, editor Martin Weiss, notes that collectors in the late '80s were struggling to get their collecting fix because of high mortgage payments, while overseas enthusiasts were helping to keep the market going. In fact, one trader reported his business had shifted to 25% in the UK with 75% of models heading abroad. Finally there was some common sense advice telling people: "the secret is not to panic". **CG**

**ISSUE
No. 86
1989**

Originally we were looking for something festive for this issue's trip back in time but it seems that, rather like the issue you're currently holding, previous issues of the *Collectors Gazette* didn't dwell much on the festive season either. Ah well, least we've dug out an edition that ties in rather nicely with the current focus on Star Wars because it features none other than Mr. Star Wars himself, Jim Stevenson.



LEFT

Although Vectis is now a big player in the world of toy auctions, that wasn't always the case. Here you can see a report from Vectis' first ever toy auction at the Guildford Civic Hall.

RIGHT

Now and again we've reported about thefts from toy fairs and, sadly, it's not a new problem. Here a dealer tells how a couple of youths got their come uppance after nicking a toy.



LEFT

A young Jim Stevenson showcases some of his TV and film memorabilia, with a comment that merchandise is set to be big in the 1990s.



BELOW

Here the *Gazette* takes a trip to the Meccano Museum in Henley-on-Thames. Shame the wonderful Leyland double decker isn't in colour, as it must have been stunning.



A long time in a galaxy far, far a

Rob Burman interviews Kathy Taylor from Vectis Auctions about the collecting phenomenon of the decade: Star Wars.



ABOVE The iconic Millennium Falcon is one of the most famous spaceships ever. Pictures: Vectis Auctions.

With a new Star Wars film in cinemas, the world is gripped once again by the adventures of the brave Jedi and their fight against the tyrannical forces of the evil Sith. However, although Star Wars is now a global phenomenon with enough merchandise to probably fill a galaxy far, far away, there was a time when it may not have even been made and even a possibility that Kenner/Palitoy would have missed out on the action figure range that made them millions.

Back in the 1970s no one had heard of Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader was more likely to be the name of a dodgy curry at your local takeaway. However, Star Wars' creator George Lucas was already plotting out a possible storyline and had a potentially lucrative two-film deal with Universal Studios to first create teen flick American Graffiti before following up with

a sci-fi epic known only as: Star Wars. American Graffiti was released in 1973 to critical acclaim but Universal wasn't keen on Lucas' sci-fi tale, which was known as The Adventures of Luke Starkiller at one point... a title that's not quite as catchy, we're sure you'll agree. In fact Universal was so nervous about the prospect of Luke Starkiller that it cancelled the deal, leading Lucas to approach United Artists and Disney to see if they would produce the film. They also turned down his vision and it was left to Alan Ladd Jr., a producer at 20th Century Fox, to take a gamble on Star Wars.

Even then the film's release wasn't assured and throughout production Lucas is said to have been nervous it was going to be cancelled. Star Wars was made on a budget of \$11m – a drop in the ocean compared to The Force Awakens' \$200m – with Lucas himself opting to take a 40% cut of the merchandising, rather than a standard fee (something we can now see as a canny

COLLECTORS GAZETTE **FACT SHEET**

➤ WORTH A BOBA TWO

Despite the fact he has under 30 lines of dialogue in the films and appears for a matter of minutes, Boba Fett has become one of the most popular characters in the Star Wars canon, with people willing to pay thousands to get their hands on a Boba Fett figure. Despite the fact he was 'killed' in Return of the Jedi there are rumours he will return.

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move). Still, the studio was nervous about the movie and it wasn't until after audience test screenings and press previews that Fox realised it might have something special on its hands.

THE TOYS AWAKEN

However, even then, this confidence in the film wasn't necessarily reflected by the toy manufacturers and there wasn't exactly a scramble

comic book superheroes. What's more, in 1976 the company had signed a deal to release Takara's range of science fiction figures and vehicles, as part of the Micronauts range... a perfect fit, you might think.

But the deal with Fox to make Star Wars items simply wasn't to be and Mego's owner David Abrams is quoted as saying the company would go bankrupt if it made toys of

on Hot Wheels/Barbie, it was left to American company Kenner to pick up the slack. Kenner was part of the US food company General Mills, which also owned UK toy producer Palitoy, following a successful buy out in 1968. However, after being turned down by Mego (and potentially Mattel and Hasbro too), Kenner was understandably cautious about the film's success and

under a lot of pressure from the bosses at Kenner) someone came up with the innovative 'Early Bird Certificate Package', which would be ready for Christmas '77. The package was in fact an envelope that contained a cardboard backdrop showing the upcoming toys, a sticker sheet, a club membership card and a mailaway certificate that could be sent off to Kenner

line-up of characters available and the first 12 figures included: Luke Skywalker, R2-D2, Princess Leia, Chewbacca, Ben (Obi-Wan) Kenobi, Darth Vader, Han Solo, See-Threepio (C-3PO), Stormtrooper/Imperial Stormtrooper, Death Squad Commander/Star Destroyer Commander, Jawa and Sand People/Sandpeople/Tusken Raider. Meanwhile, over here in the UK, Palitoy also began shipping its Star Wars line-up in 1978.

Later that year Kenner/Palitoy added a further eight figures to the line-up, although they're not quite as iconic as the originals: Greedo, Hammerhead, Snaggletooth, Walrus Man, Arfive-Defour (R5-D4), Death Star Droid, Luke Skywalker (X-Wing Pilot) and Power Droid. These latter models also teased the upcoming release of Boba Fett, who has now become one of the most iconic Star

But the deal with Fox to make Star Wars items simply wasn't to be and Mego's owner David Abrams is quoted as saying the company would go bankrupt if it made toys of every "flash-in-the-pan" sci-fi B movie.

to sign up the rights to Star Wars. Legend tells that American toy maker Mego was initially approached by Fox to create a line of Star Wars products. You can certainly see the sense behind this, considering that Mego had a decent reputation for producing 'action figures' inspired by the likes of Star Trek, Planet of the Apes and

every "flash-in-the-pan" sci-fi B movie that came along. There's even a suggestion on the Mego Museum website that a Fox representative was literally pushed out of a meeting with a toy company at the 1977 Toy Fair in New York... could that have been Mego? With Mego out the picture, Hasbro busy with GI Joe and Mattel focused

was slow off the mark with its production. This was to prove a huge mistake because following Star Wars' phenomenal release in cinemas in May 1977, Kenner simply wasn't prepared and didn't have its action figures and vehicles ready for the lucrative Christmas period in 1977. Keen to make up for this mistake (and probably

to guarantee the sender the first four action figures: Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia Organa, Artoo-Detoo (R2-D2) and Chewbacca.

True to its word Kenner began shipping the action figures in February 1978, which came in a non-descript white box and little plastic bags. What's more, Kenner also expanded the initial



ABOVE Although vehicles like the AT-AT were originally put into mixed lots, they're now being lotted individually as the prices increase.

BELOW Even advertising items, like the shop display below, are sought after by Star Wars collectors because many were simply thrown away.



Wars characters ever. By collecting special tokens, kids could send away for a Boba figure, which was officially released in 1980 as part of The Empire Strikes Back line-up of toys. For the follow-up films (The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi) both Kenner and Palitoy clearly didn't want to be caught out again and throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s the market was flooded by new Star Wars action figures (28 for Empire Strikes Back and 31 for Return of the Jedi). By the mid 1980s more than 25 million Star Wars figures had been sold in the UK alone – more than one toy per head of child population at the time. Meanwhile sales were at £50 million a year in 1984.

THE FORCE IS STRONG WITH THIS ONE...

Of course, the creation of the Star Wars toys was only really the beginning and since they were first released in 1978 they have become one of the most collectable products around, with some willing to pay tens of thousands to get their hands on particularly rare figures. In hindsight, it's easy to see why the Star Wars toys have become so collectable – after all, the films had such a huge affect on a generation of collectors that they're bound to want to buy the original figures due to their nostalgia. However, in the 1980s, some considered them to be tacky plastic toys.

Jim 'Mr. Star Wars' Stevenson once told us an interesting story about his early days of collecting the figures. "I would go to toy fairs and swapmeets around

Nottinghamshire and some of the diecast or model railway collectors really couldn't understand why I was buying all this Star Wars stuff. They would call it plastic tat but I wasn't buying it as an investment back then. My lad loved the films and we were just collecting the toys because of that. Eventually, we had filled an entire room in the house."

Looking back, we can now clearly see what a clever investment Jim's purchasing was but in the 1980s TV and film memorabilia was potentially seen as a niche genre and no one could have predicted just how valuable Star Wars toys were set to become in the future.

Despite the fact that they were produced in their millions, this almost became the reason why they've become so collectable because most kids would



ABOVE Kenner/Palitoy released a series of diecast spaceships, including a TIE Fighter, X-Wing, etc. This is the most sought after of the diecast series, as the TIE Bomber was released in much smaller numbers.



As well as the famous small action figures, there was also a range of much larger Action Man-style figures inspired by the likes of Han Solo and Luke Skywalker. Here you can see the Stormtrooper.

immediately rip them out of the box and start playing. No one was bothered about keeping a pristine bubble or looking for unusual packaging – they just wanted to destroy the Death Star.

In the past few years, one of the auction houses that has become synonymous with rare Star Wars is Vectis in Thornaby. Earlier this year the saleroom hit the headlines after breaking records by selling a Palitoy Empire Strikes Back Boba Fett figure for £18,000, which certainly isn't bad considering the original RRP was £1.50.

We caught up with Vectis' resident Star Wars expert Kathy Taylor to find out why people are continuing to pay such large amounts for Star Wars toys and whether the bubble will eventually burst.

"I think the reason why the prices are going up and

RIGHT You might be surprised to hear this Death Star pencil sharpener is estimated at £80 to £100.



up is because there's quite a competitive community out there and even before an auction begins, some of the collectors are on forums talking about what items they want to buy. They're

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This is the exceptionally rare Empire Strikes Back Boba Fett figure that sold for £18,000 at Vectis Auctions earlier this year.



Although initially dismissed and seen to be not as valuable as the original Palitoy figures, the 'tri-logo' toys are becoming increasingly popular.



As well as the movies, toys inspired by spin-off television shows and movies are becoming collectable, thanks to their association with the original Star Wars trilogy.



ABOVE This was the innovative Early Bird Certificate that Kenner used when it realised it wouldn't have the action figures ready for the all-important Christmas period in 1977. Picture: eBay.



RIGHT Incredibly despite the fact they were first released back in 1978, trade boxes full of figures are still turning up at auction.

there's going to be even more interest in the media, which will only increase the demand even more."

One of the other reasons behind the huge success of vintage Star Wars collectables is that, just like the films, the toys have international appeal. "When we have a Star Wars auction, the bidders are based around the globe. It's not like some of the TV and film memorabilia where we tend to see particular bidders in certain countries. For Star Wars it's worldwide, which also pushes up the price."

Although traditionally the original 12 action figures have been among the most desirable of the Star Wars toys, as the prices for these continue to sky rocket, Kathy thinks that some collectors are looking for alternatives. "The great thing about Star Wars is that there are so

many different types of toys to collect. You could go for the originals, all the variations of a particular character, collectables inspired by a certain film or different card backs for the figures... the list is almost endless."

In particular, because of this move away from just action figures, Kathy has seen the prices for vehicles inspired by the movies increase as well. "A few years ago we would group the vehicles together in a mixed lot but now we're selling them individually and the prices are continuing to rise," added Kathy.

"Likewise we're also seeing a lot of people who are happy just to have the unboxed figures so they can display them or use them for dioramas. The loose figures are particularly popular with children who are just starting out collecting Star Wars.

Then there's the chance these will become the serious collectors of the future who want to track down those mint in box items."

Kathy also believes the future is bright for Star Wars. "There really isn't anything else to compare to Star Wars, even traditional collectables like diecast or model railways. Star Wars in an absolute phenomenon and nothing else is really making the same amount of money. People are, of course, passionate about other areas of collecting but for Star Wars they'll dress up, go to special conventions, watch the films, read the books... you name it!

"However, I do think that the really big prices will only ever be paid for the original Kenner or Palitoy toys and I can't see the value of the merchandise inspired by the prequels or even the

new films ever matching that of the first movies. People are getting wise to the potential value of Star Wars toys, so they'll buy one and put another in the loft for safe keeping. The problem is that lots of people are doing this now, so in 30 years' time all of a sudden the market will potentially be flooded."

And the big question: will the bubble ever burst? "I really don't think so... at least not for a long time. As I've said the passion for Star Wars is like nothing else and there is a limited amount of these toys available, which will keep the prices fairly high. A lot of toys tend to come in and out of fashion but Star Wars is definitely here to stay for a while!" **CG**

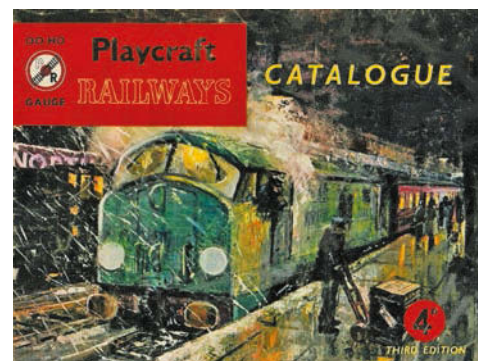
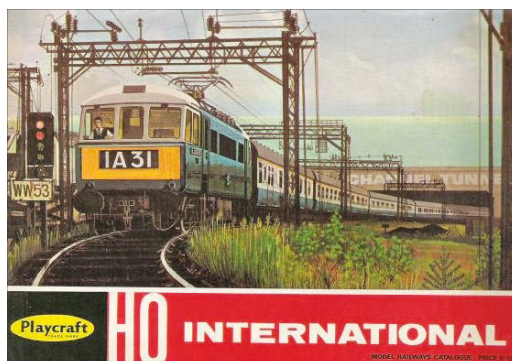
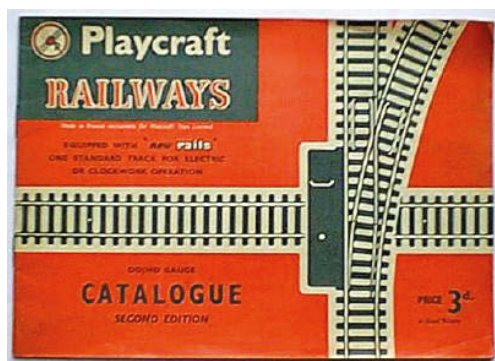
almost outbidding each other before actually placing a bid," explained Kathy.

"They are hungry for vintage Star Wars and I can only imagine that with the new film coming out,

Playcraft railways



Mark Nolan takes you through the cheap 'n' cheerful trains from France.



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT Playcraft second catalogue 1962/63. Thin paper, single colour; the Playcraft 1968 catalogue cover features a loco it never produced and a signal growing out of the track. Behind is an imaginary Channel Tunnel; Playcraft third catalogue 1963/64. Rainy scene with the North British Class 29 diesel loco is the most atmospheric Playcraft cover, making best use of the limited model range.

COLLECTORS' FACT SHEET

DECAUVILLE

Playcraft also produced a range of narrow gauge trains called 'Decauville' which are now highly sought after. Particularly worth looking out for is the P1650 narrow gauge decorated pre-formed layout. This was made from expanded polystyrene and came complete with track, loco, wagons and an operating hopper loading accessory. The original range used 9mm gauge track and consisted of an 0-4-0 loco, a toast-rack coach, a four wheeled tipper wagon and a bogie logging wagon.

For any healthy boy growing up in the 1960s, model trains would never be far from the forefront of his mind. The brands we saw mostly in the shops were Tri-ang and Hornby Dublo. Trix, for all its influence in the toy train market, were less evident on the high street than might be expected. But from 1962 there was a new player on the block that nobody could fail to notice: Playcraft.

One reason for Playcraft's high profile was that it was all over Woolworth's; the general store with a huge presence in towns and villages across the UK. Woolworth's was not the kind of shop with which Hornby or Tri-ang would ever associate, so the arrival of train sets would have been noticed by their

customers. But along with strong promotion by Woolies, there was another compelling market force which you couldn't miss: they were incredibly cheap.

BIG LAYOUTS FOR POCKET MONEY PRICES

Playcraft trains were so much cheaper than all their competitors, even the most diehard Tri-ang or Dublo fan would be slightly tempted to consider investing. For example, the top of the range Playcraft set was the 'Night Ferry' which cost £5.75, as opposed to the equivalent Hornby Dublo offering, the 'Bournemouth Belle' Pullman set that was nearly £10. At the other end, the basic Dublo set was £3/8/6 whereas the Playcraft 'Broad St' goods set was £2/10.

Even the catalogue was

cheap. Playcraft's 1963 edition was a black and white effort printed on thin paper that threatened to leave ink on your hands. Contemporary advertisements read: "Build that big layout at pocket money prices".

ENTREZ JOUEF

It all started with a French company, Jouef, who began making trains in 1949. In 1960 it embarked on a collaboration with the British toy company Mettoy. The agreement to supply a range of cheap UK outline trains, to be distributed by Mettoy, gave Jouef the impetus to also expand its own range, with great success.

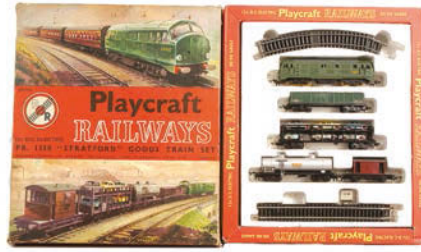
Mettoy had also made a range of tinplate O gauge trains. The name 'Playcraft' had appeared on various toys already, as Mettoy was linked

with brands like Aurora kits, Wembley footballs and, most famously, Corgi Toys. The latter were in fact distributed by Jouef in France.

Unfortunately Jouef/Playcraft were to encounter one major problem that was the bane of any European manufacturer trying to break in to the UK market. The mistake they kept making was to think we wouldn't notice that the models were a slightly different size. Rivarossi, Lima, Trix and Jouef all got caught out by the difference between HO and OO. The lure is that both scales run on the same track. The existence of two such close but ultimately different scales has peppered the toy train market with unusual models ever since. (HO is technically purer than OO but that doesn't cut much ice



The Euston passenger set: the North British Bo-Bo with three maroon Mk1 coaches and oval of track. *Courtesy of Vectis auctions.*



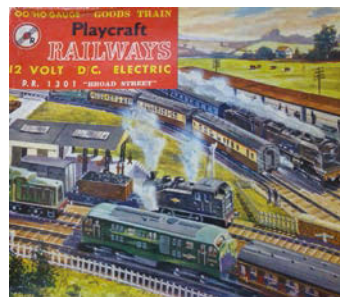
The Stratford goods set: includes a rather nice car transporter and the BR guard's brake van which was made specially for the UK market. *Courtesy of Vectis auctions.*



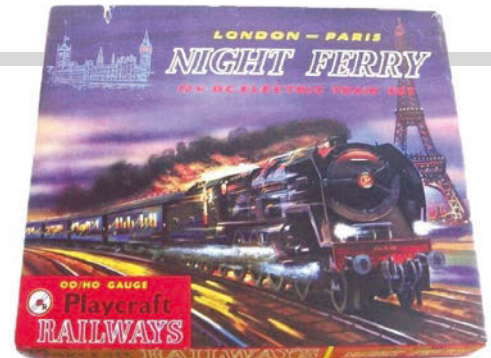
Night Ferry containing 4-6-2 SNCF black livery 231 Class Pacific Loco No. 231.C.60, three blue Wagon Lits Sleeping Cars, along with oval of track. *Courtesy of Vectis Auctions.*



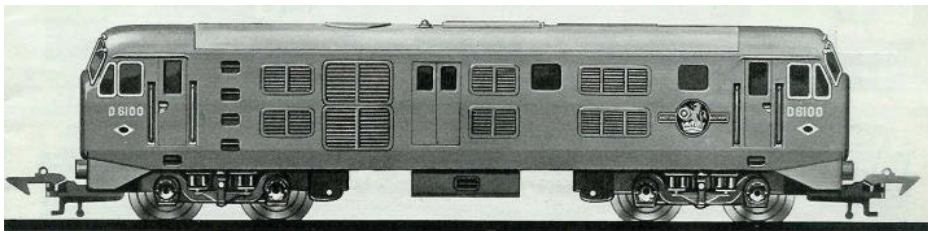
ABOVE The Lakeside layout would not have had enough space to run two trains, although two locos were included in the set, along with a track mat, buildings and accessories.



LEFT Box art from the 'Broad St' goods set. As with many toy trains, the appearance of the actual models under the lid could never match the promise and allure of the cover.



The Night Ferry box illustration. Although the SNCF loco never crossed the Channel, this set has some relevance as similar coaching stock could be seen lurking around Waterloo in the 1960s.



The North British Class 29 Bo-Bo. Mainstay of the Playcraft locos but an unfortunate choice as the real locos were troublesome and therefore short lived.

in the UK where we do it our way).

LOCOS AND ROLLING STOCK

The Class 29 loco was Playcraft's main stab at UK credibility. It represented a North British diesel electric

turned out to be short lived in actual service. Eventually they were moved to the Scottish Region, ostensibly to make servicing easier. None were preserved.

The model, however, was a sturdy runner, despite the strange appearance caused

expect it to work that well, and you're surprised that it usually does.

Most manufacturers of UK trains have had a stab at modelling BR Mk1 coaches. The Playcraft/Jouef models are a bit short but still creditable, bearing in mind

Playcraft flooded the market with clockwork and electric sets to capture the toy market. Sets had interesting names like 'Clapham', 'Snow Hill' and 'Stratford' for freight, with passenger sets including 'Euston' and 'Swindon'.

loco. If Playcraft was looking for a loco that would stick around for 40 years, as many have, it made the wrong choice. The prototypes were built in Glasgow as part of the dieselisation pilot scheme. They proved troublesome and

by the wheels being too close together, resulting in odd looking bogies with a rather noticeable gear cog protruding from each. It had a huge can motor that drove all eight wheels! Like a typical French car, you don't

they're toys first and models incidentally. The Playcraft wagons were all terrible; none look anything like UK outline, which is hardly surprising as all apart from the brake van were continental models with British markings. They were

the least convincing element of the system and really let the range down.

Playcraft was always out of step with its couplings. With hindsight a Tri-ang most useful. However it used the Peco-type along with Trix and Hornby Dublo, who were about to fold. Most of the products have 'Made in France - Jouef for Playcraft' moulded underneath.

A couple of rarer wagon sets are worth looking out for; the Kangourou Road Rail set and the Cockerill Large Crane, both SNCF, are sought after items.

SETS

Playcraft flooded the market with clockwork and electric sets to capture the toy market. Sets had interesting names like 'Clapham', 'Snow Hill' and 'Stratford' for freight, with passenger sets including 'Euston' and 'Swindon'. Considering the narrow range of models it did well to come up with so many set variations.

One set worthy of mention is the 'Lakeside'. One recently made £500 on eBay, making it probably the most valuable product Playcraft ever made. Its unique selling point was a 'beautifully printed full colour base plan' that delivered a complete 34" by 48" model railway out of the box. This included two sets ('Euston' passenger and 'Stratford' goods), track, transformer and buildings. The instructions for permanent mounting add: "For a really flat finish it is recommended that the base plan be ironed before mounting".

In response to Playcraft's price onslaught, Tri-ang raised its game with cheap and improved starter sets. Despite its price advantage, it couldn't match Tri-ang's rapid improvements: by 1970 Playcraft had gone. **CG**

Thrill of the race

Ann Evans meets Dave Angell, who collects Tri-ang's interesting Jump Jockey sets.



ABOVE Jump Jockey sets and accessories.
Pictures: Rob Tysall.

FACT SHEET

+ JUMP INTO JUMP JOCKEY

If, after reading this article, you're thinking of starting your own Jump Jockey collection then the good news is that sets (in relatively good condition) shouldn't set you back a great deal. A quick look on eBay shows that excellent examples tend to sell for around the £50 mark but if you're not fussy about quality then working examples can be picked up for around £20.

You would be forgiven for not knowing much about Jump Jockeys, the table top game manufactured by Tri-ang back in the late 1960s to early '70s, as there doesn't seem to be a great deal of information about them. Fortunately collector Dave Angell of Telford in Shropshire, has taken the toy to heart by trying to collect all the sets ever made – and by learning as much about them as possible.

We popped along to see Dave at his home, where he showed us some of the amazing toys that he has collected since he was – wait for it – a baby of one-year-old! Of course back then, Dave didn't know his push along Tri-ang Neddy and cart would become a prized possession

in his varied and unique collection. But in fact, his first Tri-ang push along is one of around 30 he now owns.

In addition to Jump Jockeys and Tri-ang push alongs, he also has an amazing collection of Tri-ang trains, Playcraft trains, Minic Motorways and Matchbox cars, about which he said: "I don't collect Matchbox cars. I just happen to have about 300 of them! But I don't know much about them, so can't really say I'm a Matchbox collector."

Another of his very early toys was a Tri-ang Chuff Chuff pull along engine that he had for his third Christmas. "However, I'd already got one," said Dave, "so mum and dad took it back to the shop and exchanged it for a Tri-ang RS24 train set with Nelly and pick up goods wagons. It came just before

my fourth birthday!"

Trains began to play a major role in his life. His grandfather worked on the railways and would tell Dave stories of those days; and from the age of 11 Dave went to school on the train every day. "I was born in Peterborough then moved to Shropshire," he said. "As a child I would catch the train from Shifnal to Wellington, it was a class 101 DMU. Then I started train spotting. It was trains for years and years – long before the Jump Jockeys came along."

These days, when Dave isn't enjoying his collections or at toy fairs on the look out for more Jump Jockey sets, you might find him at the Telford Steam Railway where he has a third share in a diesel North British hydraulic shunter; a third share in a full

size goods wagon – and his own guards brake van which is more than 100-years-old. A restoration project that he's been working on for the last 18 months.

He got into collecting Jump Jockeys by mistake. He said: "I became more interested in Tri-ang collectables in the early 1980s and I happened to put 'Tri-ang' into eBay and a Jump Jockey set came up for a very reasonable price. Within a couple of months I had sets JJ100, JJ200 and JJ300. I saw that it wasn't a very big range so I thought why not collect the lot?"

He then put on a static display at Telford Steam Railway's Model and Collector's Gala, which resulted in him getting an invitation to Alresford Toy Museum. "That gave me the impetus to get some Jump

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It takes some skill to get the horses over the jumps.



Jump Jockey.



ABOVE

The electrical car is hidden under the tracks.

LEFT

All boxed up.

RIGHT

Collector Dave Angell.



Jockeys running and to do some research into their history."

Research however, proved tricky as Dave discovered there wasn't a great deal written about Jump Jockeys whose logo was: You Race, You Jump, You Win. "It

some of the parts were made in Hong Kong."

He pointed out that they didn't prove to be very popular toys, although judging by the large instruction leaflet inside the sets written in eight different languages, there

to set up. I also think they aimed it at the wrong market. They aimed it at kids, but in the French set, they included betting slips and fake money. So maybe it would have been better aimed at an adult market."

Each Jump Jockey set

posts, jumps and side fences, hand held controllers and an electrical starting gate, which when it goes up activates the electrical current.

Incidentally when the horse comes to a jump, the polarity is reversed so there's quite some skill in getting the horse over the hurdles. The set didn't come with a power supply either, although the MiniModels J.24 Smoothflow transformer - rectifier seems to be the recommended one.

Dave explained that the number of horses, tracks and jumps varies depending on what size set you buy. The JJ100 was the basic set with a small oval, one jump and two horses. There was the JJ002, JJ003, JJ005 with the number of horses, jumps and so on increasing to suit. Oddly, the JJ004 doesn't

seem to exist.

"I have the JJ100 - JJ500 sets; I've never actually seen a JJ700 that was planned to come with an 'obstacle surprise' and the 'open ditch'. There is a JJ90 with smaller corners, that I know was made but still have not seen. I have photographs of the JJ011 and JJ012 and there's rumoured to be a MC001, which was a Jump Rider with motor cycles rather than horses. I would really like to get hold of all these models."

If anyone can shed any light on these illusive Jump Jockey sets, Dave would be pleased to hear from you. Contact: <http://www.daveangell.co.uk/>. **CG**

Each Jump Jockey set comes with an oval track that you piece together, strips of 'green turf' making it look as if the horse is running along the green - the electrical car going along a channel beneath the track.

seems they came out in the late 1960s but only continued until the early '70s," he explained. "They were first manufactured in the Miniville factory at Havant then moved to the main factory in Margate. Later,

must have been high hopes at one time.

"I can see why it wasn't so popular," said Dave. "It was expensive for one thing. The price was the equivalent to a good quality train set. It's also quite time consuming

comes with an oval track that you piece together and strips of 'green turf' making it look as if the horse is running along the green - the electrical car going along a channel beneath the track. There are lap counters, finishing

Best of British

DCMT/Lone Star

Brian Howes goes it alone, as he recalls the history of DCMT/Lone Star.



Die Casting Machine Tools Ltd (DCMT) has a unique place in the history of the British toy industry as it is at this company that two legendary figures in the world of diecasting first got to know each other. That friendship, formed between Rodney Smith and John (Jack) Odell, changed the face of the British toy industry following the birth and subsequent growth of Lesney from January 1947. But more of this fascinating link later.

Unlike Lesney/Matchbox, DCMT is not a household name in the world of toys. Many of its early toys were crude by today's standards and some remain extremely obscure. Indeed, some early DCMT toys can only be identified by collectors with significant experience as they may not be marked. DCMT is far better known, however, for the toys it manufactured from 1949 under the banner of Lone Star.

DCMT was formed in June 1939 by Bob Mills who rented two large subterranean lock up spaces beneath The Bridge filling station in Green Lanes, North London, close to the North Circular Road. These were located down a side ramp where Mills simply called the business 'Toys and Houseware'. He was a clever man designing and building his first diecasting machine himself, which he later sold on for a healthy £100 profit. During the war Mills made zinc-alloy castings for the Ministry of Defence and,

after going into partnership with Sidney Ambridge, continued to make diecasting machines as well as taking on contract diecasting jobs of all descriptions. During the 1940s DCMT developed a good working relationship with Crescent Toys whose roots date back to 1922. As Crescent modernised its production from hollowcast lead to zinc-alloy diecasting, DCMT supplied it with its diecasting machines and took on contract diecasting of toys. It was this that led DCMT to venture into the toy market as a sole manufacturer in its own right. Known early creations included a range of diecast figures, simple flat-bed trucks and various motor cars including a Jaguar that

When the war ended he went in search of a job and didn't have to look very far. His parents rented out a flat above their own house on Weatherill Road, Muswell Hill, to Sidney Ambridge who just happened to be the co-founder of DCMT. Odell's father William, who was a London bus driver, arranged for Jack Odell to be taken on by DCMT as a 'die caster' (machine operator) on a wage of 3s3d per hour. Odell worked at DCMT for nine months during which he learned a lot about the diecasting industry. Rodney Smith was a few years older than Jack Odell and had been employed by DCMT prior to being called up for service. He also served in the Armed Forces

PLAYTHINGS. The toys produced under this brand included a mobile crane and a cement mixer, which is very similar to the early Lesney version.

The company soon realised that it had to make the most of the post-war cowboy craze created by popular western films and TV series much loved by kids of the day. By the late 1940s toy rifles and pistols were becoming hugely popular playthings and in 1949 DCMT produced its first cowboy cap pistol calling it the 'Lone Star'. It sold well and 'Lone Star' was subsequently adopted as the brand name for all its subsequent toys in place of 'Slikka'. Toy cap-firing guns



As Crescent modernised its production from hollowcast lead to zinc-alloy diecasting, DCMT supplied it with its diecasting machines and took on contract diecasting of toys. It was this that led DCMT to venture into the toy market as a sole manufacturer in its own right.



came with a lifting ramp. Toys were in great demand after the war and the profit to be made from selling these somewhat crude diecastings caught the imagination of two DCMT employees with their own diecasting ambitions.

As previously mentioned, DCMT played a significant role in the formation of Lesney Toys as, by 1946, it employed both Jack Odell and Rodney Smith. As a teenager Jack Odell had experienced several jobs including that of a cinema projectionist. At 19 he was called up to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and served in North Africa and Italy.

during hostilities and returned to his old job after the war. In 1946 Rodney Smith left DCMT and joined forces with namesake Leslie Smith to create Lesney Products. Several months later they were joined by Jack Odell and the rest, as they say is history. Lesney bought its first diecasting machines from DCMT who, by 1947, had expanded into new larger premises just up the road from Bridge Filling Station at the River Works 152 Green Lanes, Palmers Green. These premises were subsequently enlarged as toy production grew and in an attempt to help market its products DCMT adopted the name SLIKKA

became the mainstay of Lone Star production over the next two decades with more than 220 different designs being made. These cap guns all had names linked to the Wild West such as Trail Boss, Wyatt Earp, Cisco Kid, Texas Ranger, Night-Rider, Law Man, Gunslinger, Maverick and Cowpoke. To promote its toy guns the company launched the 'Lone Star Roadshow' fronted by resident staff actor/cowboy Steve Larrabee and it also published the Lone Star Comic.

Along with the Lone Star guns, cap firing pistols and cowboy related toys came a large range of diecast road vehicles. These included the

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LEFT

This mysterious diecast Fire Escape is thought to have been made by DCMT for Crescent but is simply marked 'Made in England' on its base. Part of the fun of collecting these early post war diecast toys is researching their history.

'Roadmasters' series of cars and trucks, which included an articulated tanker and an RAC Land Rover and Mobile Office that I fondly remember having as a kid. The 'Modern Army' series rivalled some of the military toys being made by Dinky and the 'Impy Toy' range was launched to mirror Matchbox Toys along with Lone Star 'Flyers' which clearly competed with Matchbox 'Superfast.' Speed wheels were also fitted to the later 'Kings of the Road' and 'Impy Major' models made by Lone Star and the company also made model trains and a range of '000' scale miniature locomotives and rolling stock.

The 1980s sadly saw the slow demise of DCMT/Lone Star. In October 1983 the company entered receivership, another victim of the crippling recession and difficult trading conditions in the British toy industry largely due to cheap foreign imports. There followed various takeovers and rescue attempts but the last remaining Lone Star factory finally closed its doors for the last time in June 1988. Of the old factories all but one have now been demolished and all that remains is the original Bridge Works in Green Lanes.

Company founder Bob Mills died in 1973 followed by Sidney Ambridge in 1980. While DCMT/Lone Star might not be as famous as the likes of Dinky and Corgi it nevertheless played an equally significant role in the rise of the great post-war British toy industry and it will never be forgotten by collectors throughout the world who are still as keen as ever to add those elusive Lone Star toys to their collection... myself included! **CG**



ABOVE

The history of Lone Star/DCMT features the names of various businessmen who went on to become key figures in the world of toy production throughout the 1960s and '70s.



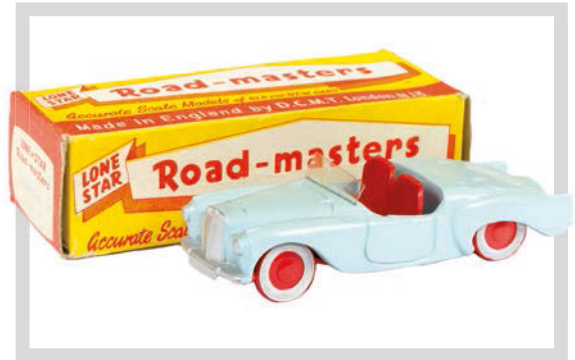
ABOVE

With the invasion of Hot Wheels in the 1960s, Lone Star also produced its own take on diecast cars with low friction wheels called Flyers.



ABOVE

As well as guns and cars, Lone Star/DCMT also produced a series of more unusual pieces, like this fantastic bus conductor's ticket machine. Recreate your favourite scenes from On the Buses.



ABOVE

While Dinky and Corgi were busy with their various diecast projects, Lone Star didn't want to miss out and produced the charming Road-masters series of cars and trucks.



ABOVE

One of our favourite items from Lone Star is this attractive Captain Scarlet gun. Despite the fact it never appeared in the show, a kid receiving one of these for Christmas must have been over the moon.



ABOVE

Sadly nowadays Wild West toys aren't particularly in fashion, following the invasion of Luke Skywalker and all his Star Wars pals... but the detail on Lone Star's output is superb.



RIGHT

Typically Lone Star is best known for producing Wild West-themed cap firing guns like this. It's unlikely you would get away with producing something like this nowadays. It looks just like the real thing and would cause a stir outside the toy shop!



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A new series, in which **Alwyn Brice** strolls through the alphabet, picking out a favourite name from each letter.

As a typical young man approaching his formative years in the 1960s, I did what every other male did: I was interested in model railways, I played with toy soldiers and I was beginning to realise the potential of slot racing. But most of the time, for my friends and myself, it was a question of kit building.

Incredibly therapeutic and with the added bonus (largely undocumented, at the time) of getting high on dope or polystyrene cement, kit building was a way of life. Indeed, if you couldn't put one together, your social standing was greatly diminished. I spent virtually all my pocket money on Airfix and what little was left over went on Humbrol paints and brushes.

A, then, is for Airfix. More precisely, Airfix Series One. Why Airfix? Well, the kits were freely available (they even turned up on street market stalls) and the instructions were always clear and concise. Added to that was the high quality of the moulded parts and the precise fit of those components. Stunning box art (once Roy Cross got into his stride in the late 1960s) was also a huge selling point: emotional artwork certainly enticed the adolescent and fired the imagination. Besides all this was the sheer breadth of the range: although aircraft dominated (what is it about young lads and aviation?), equally you could build sailing boats and warships, cars (both classic and modern), railway themed models, civil and military dwellings as well as tanks and soft skins and even figurines. There was, literally, something for all tastes but better still was the fact that there was an Airfix kit to suit the depth of your pocket, ranging from the cheapest bagged variety,



LEFT

Don't forget the railways! Airfix could provide plenty of realism for the standard HO/OO layout, which was every boy's dream back in the 1960s.

RIGHT
The simplistic approach to artwork launched Airfix into the kit building marketplace. Nowadays these early examples are eagerly sought out.



Artwork on the later kits header cards (1960s on) was dynamic, to say the least. Why not simply collect these colourful mementoes?



Airfix's slot car racing sets could be enhanced by the addition of buildings, such as these pits: they dovetailed beautifully into the company's portfolio.

all the way up to those costing well over pound or so. For most of us, it was the Series One that beckoned: you could while away the hours for three bob (or 15p) and with every passing kit, your modelling skills increased. At least, they did in theory...

Looking back, if it was a solitary hobby, it taught the likes of myself much about assembly and painting – and expanded my knowledge base, thanks to all those potted histories in the catalogues. Patience was required in large quantities, for glue set slowly and the urge to get on and build the thing was offset by the time taken for joints to be thoroughly dry. Bi-planes were a nightmare: those slender wing struts couldn't be over-glued, for example. And I still recall the frustration of assembling the Buffalo amphibian when you had to line up a dozen tiny bogies between two chassis sections and make sure that none fell out during the gluing process. But the finished product, painted and adorned with decals, was always satisfying – and it spurred one on to the next kit.

Looking back today at unmade Airfix kits I note prices firming; indeed, some people simply like to collect the header cards from the Series One kits, thereby tracing a model's evolution. Colours, design and artwork changed over the decades and the early examples have terrific nostalgic qualities today. And when now, at a swapmeet, I chance upon a bagged example, unmade, with slightly rusty staples, the inclination is still there to open it up and get the scalpel and glue out. Airfix was, after all, my childhood; and I'd like to think that some of today's younger generation also get a thrill out of these kits. **CG**

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PRICE GUIDE

Lacy, Scott & Knight has a host of fantastic Dinky models, while Warwick & Warwick offers up some good Bassett-Lowke locomotives.



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge electric LMS black 2603 Stanier 2-Cylinder 4P Tank 2-6-4T, generally excellent. *Sold for £450, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge electric LMS maroon Royal Scot re-named and re-numbered 6130 The West Yorkshire Regiment 4-6-0 locomotive and tender No. 5611/0, generally good in fair plus box. *Sold for £230, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



♣ Hornby O Gauge SR green 3667 Brake/Composite No. 2 Passenger Coach, sides good to good plus, roof with chipping and nearly good, light cracking to some wheels. *Sold for £60, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



♣ Hornby Dublo Class 501 Suburban EMU S.65326 No. 2250 Power Coach, plus separate S.77511 No. 4150 coach, excellent in good to good plus boxes with two packing rings, Meccano lubricating oil and instructions. *Sold for £200, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge electric LMS 2265 'Princess Elizabeth' 4-4-0, maroon locomotive and tender No. 4301/0, good in fair box. *Sold for £95, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge electric LMS maroon 6100 Royal Scot 4-6-0 locomotive and tender No. 5611/0, generally good plus, re-touched in places. *Sold for £150, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



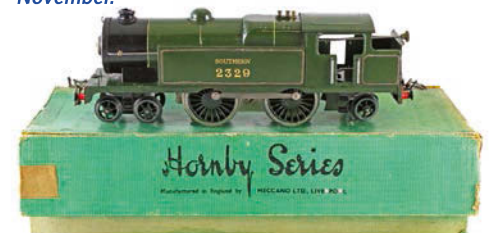
♣ Hornby Dublo Class AL1 (Class 81) AC Electric Bo-Bo BR E3002 No. 2245, blue, excellent plus in a good plus box with instructions. *Sold for £280, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



♣ Hornby Dublo BR Rebuilt 'West County' Class 4-6-2 BR 34005 'Barnstaple' No. 2235 locomotive and tender, green with orange lining, good to excellent in good box with two packing rings and instructions. *Sold for £60, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge electric LMD Standard 'Compound' 4-4-0 1190, maroon locomotive and tender No. 4302/0, good without box. *Sold for £170, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



♣ Hornby O Gauge 6 volt Southern green 2329 No. E220 Special 4-4-2T locomotive, buffer and buffers beams have been re-painted, excellent in fair box. *Sold for £140, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



Hornby Dublo pre-war LNER blue 4498 Sir Nigel Gresley 4-6-2 locomotive and tender, tender is post-war No. EDL1, nearly good. *Sold for £80, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



♣ Hornby Dublo BR 46247 maroon City of Liverpool 4-6-2 locomotive and tender No. 3226, converted to 2-rail, fitted with later couplings, odd retouch, otherwise excellent plus in good box. *Sold for £75, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



♣ Wrenn Railways BR green 34042 Dorchester 4-6-2 locomotive and tender No. W2236, mint in excellent No. W2235 box. 'Barnstaple' in pen to one end of box. *Sold for £48, Warwick & Warwick, November.*



♦French Dinky Toys No. 25CG Citroen H van 'Fromage Ch Gervais', in the original all-card 25CG Gervais print box, some play wear. Good, box good. **Sold for £85, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 157 Jaguar XK120 Coupe, correct colour spot on box, one end flap detached but apparent. Near mint, box good. **Sold for £75, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦French Dinky No. 531 Fiat 1200 Grande Vue, in the original yellow picture-side all-card box. Very good, box very good. **Sold for £60, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦Dinky pre-war No. 31 Holland Coachcraft Van, green lead body with 'Holland Coachcraft registered design', noticeable loss to lead structure, re-transferred, very rare. Good condition. **Sold for £280, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**

♦French Dinky No. 542/24ZT Simca Ariane Taxi, roof sign and bonnet taxi sign apparent, in the original dual numbered box. Very good, box good. **Sold for £55, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦Dinky Toys pre-war No. 33R Mechanical Horse and Trailer Van, GWR livery and number '2742' to sides, fatigue near tow hitch and underside of mechanical horse, otherwise good for age. **Sold for £160, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦Dinky Supertoys No. 902 Foden Flat Truck, second type cab, in correct box with Sellotape glue residue on lid and lead-free sticker on end. Near mint, box very good. **Sold for £150, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 157 Jaguar XK120 Coupe, in the original yellow type three picture box, with incorrect colour spot. Very good to near mint, box good to very good. **Sold for £170, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦French Dinky No. 552 Citroen DS19, slight crushing to box top. Very good, box good. **Sold for £75, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 514 Guy Van 'Weetabix' yellow first type cab, some losses, in a reproduction box, factory fault to 'Made in England' lettering on on side. Very good condition. **Sold for £230, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦French Dinky No. 500 Citroen 2CV, in the original illustrated card box, one inside end flap missing. Very good. Box good. **Sold for £50, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦French Dinky No. 575 Panhard Articulated Lorry and Trailer with SNCF livery, in the later all yellow all-card picture box, which has noticeable surface tear and some staining. Very good, box good. **Sold for £170, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦French Dinky No. 549 Borgward Isabella TS, in the original all-card picture-sided box. Very good, box very good. **Sold for £60, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦French Dinky No. 889 Paris Autobus, Dunlop and Pepsi advertising to sides, in the original illustrated Supertoys box. Very good. Box very good. **Sold for £85, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦Dinky Toys No. 424 Commer Convertible Articulated Truck, in the original all-card box. Very good to near mint, box very good. **Sold for £110, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



♦French Dinky Junior No. 101 Peugeot 404, some losses to raised edges, in the original all-card box. Good to very good, box very good. **Sold for £130, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY

1946

The first post-war Dinky model, released in 1946, was appropriately a Jeep.

54

Although previously Dinky models were given a number/letter serial number, that changed in 1954 to just numbers.

500

The Dinky Supertoys range starts at number 500, as seen below with the Foden Wagon.

1959

French Dinky models didn't change to all numbers until 1959.



◀Dinky Toys No. 923 Big Bedford Heinz Delivery Van, model is loose and has been touched in on several places, rear door repainted, original transfers. **Sold for £380, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



◀Dinky Supertoys No. 501 Foden Diesel 8 Wheel Wagon, first type cab, unpainted hook with slits to chassis, original box, some losses. Good, box fair to good. **Sold for £95, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



◀French Dinky No. 881 GMC Circus Lorry and Trailer 'Pinder', decals applied, three animals, in original sliding tray all-card box with packing piece. Very good, box good to very good. **Sold for £500, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



◀Dinky Supertoys No. 967 BBC TV Mobile Control Room, some play wear, good condition, box good. **Sold for £70, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



◀Dinky Supertoys No. 514 Slumberland Mattresses Guy Van, paint losses and surface chips to model, good, box fair to good. **Sold for £80, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**

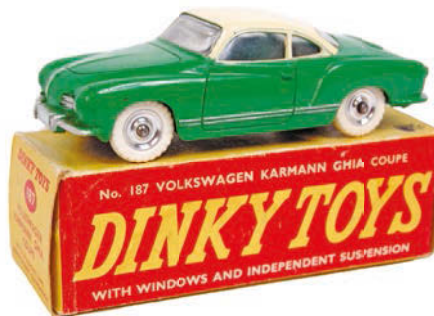
→Dinky Toys No. 480 Bedford 10 CWT Van 'Kodak', in original box, good condition, box very good. **Sold for £85, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



→Dinky Toys No. 260 Royal Mail Van, in original box, very good condition, box good to very good. **Sold for £70, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



◀Dinky Toys No. 901 Foden Diesel 8-wheel Wagon, second type cab, painted tow hook, some areas of chipping but a very bright example. Very good, box very good. **Sold for £70, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



◀Dinky Toys No. 187 Volkswagen Karmann Ghia Coupe, white M tyres with spun hubs, in the original type two box, very good, box good to very good. **Sold for £60, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



◀Dinky Toys No. 102 MG Midget Sports, with driver, in box with correct colour spot. Very good, box good. **Sold for £190, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



◀Dinky Toys No. 470 Austin Van 'Shell', Shell and BP livery, in original box. Very good, box very good. **Sold for £85, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**



◀Dinky Toys No. 064 Austin Lorry, green body with grey plastic smooth wheels, good to very good, box very good. **Sold for £65, Lacy, Scott & Knight, November.**

MORE RESULTS

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♦ Denys Fisher Six Million Dollar Man Transport Repair Station, with Six Million Dollar Man action figure and original box. **Sold for £60, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♦ Matchbox Thunderbirds Commemorative Set, complete with original box. **Sold for £32, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♦ Bluebell Dolls Ken Dodd's Diddymen Harry Cott, plastic action figure, with the original red display box. **Sold for £20, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♦ Ideal Evel Kneivel Scramble Van, in good original condition, with vehicle and accessories. **Sold for £40, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♦ Marx Man from UNCLE Counterspy Outfit, medium (size seven to eight), incomplete with within the original box. **Sold for £38, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♦ Kenner Star Wars Electronic Millennium Falcon, made 1995, appears to be complete, within the original box. **Sold for £60, East Bristol Auctions, October.**

→ Ideal Evel Kneivel Stunt Cycle, complete with figure, cycle and two part base. In a good original box. **Sold for £95, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♦ Nintendo Zelda Game & Watch No. 1005, complete with original box and instructions. Game played once and batteries removed during storage. **Sold for £120, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♦ Playmates Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Farmer Mike and his Turtle Tractor, original 1990s, includes box. **Sold for £42, East Bristol Auctions, October.**

→ Hasbro Charlie's Angels Jill, boxed action figure, unopened. **Sold for £32, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♦ Kenner The Real Ghostbusters Ghost Trap, within good original box, complete and in working condition. Comes with instructions and miniature ghost figure. **Sold for £44, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♦ Marx Lone Ranger Scout, action figure and horse set, with original box, clothing and accessories. **Sold for £38, East Bristol Auctions, October.**

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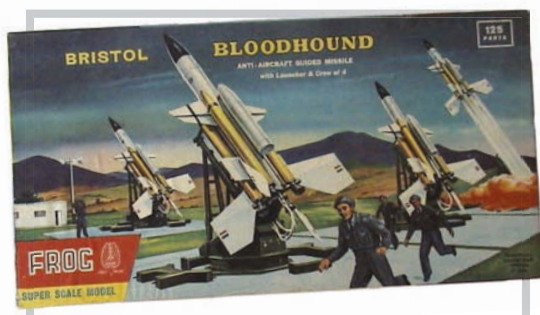


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♦ **FROG Bristol Bloodhound Anti-aircraft Guided Missile Plastic Kit**, this is a very rare plastic kit and the description went into great detail about its provenance, which explained its original purchase from a model shop in the 1970s. **Listed at £1,850 (Best Offer accepted).**



♦ **Mego World's Greatest Superheroes Spider-Man**, Your Friendly Neighbourhood Spider-Man had been graded by the Action Figure Authority and rated 90. The vendor explained it was graded straight from the trade box. **Sold for £1,695 (Buy it Now).**



♦ **Matchbox Lesney RW No. 6b Euclid Quarry Truck**, originally released with black plastic wheels, this was an exceptionally rare variation with grey plastic wheels (GPW) and, as such, demanded quite a high premium. **Sold for £1,000 (19 bids).**



♦ **Tri-ang Spot-On 4a Presentation Set (Sports Cars)**, included were the correct cars: No. 104 MGA, No. 105 Austin Healey, No. 107 Jaguar and No. 108 Triumph TR3a. All were in near mint condition, while the box had some repairs. **Sold for £899.95 (Buy it Now).**



♦ **Parker Bros. Secret Agent Board Game**, made in 1938 this was the British version of the Melvin Purvis boardgame 'G-Men', with the seller noting it was "an extremely rare game and one for the serious game collector". **Sold for £750 (Buy it Now).**



♦ **Corgi Toys CC 86501 Madonna 'American Life'**, these promo minis were given to guests at the 2003 American Life launch party and only 24 pieces were produced in red; the others were in camouflage or black. **Listed at £749 (Best Offer accepted).**



♦ **Corgi Toys No. 270 James Bond Aston Martin DB5**, "in very, very near mint condition with just a few tiny, tiny blemishes" noted the description. "The original rare and much sought after slimline box is in excellent condition." **Sold for £660 (Buy it Now).**



♦ **Dinky Supertoys No. 935 Leyland Octopus Flat Truck with Chains**, produced between 1964 and 1965, the truck was in "absolutely lovely condition with very minor scratches and scuffs" while the box was in decent condition. **Sold for £537.67 (34 bids).**



♦ **Matchbox No. 5b London Bus 'Visco-Static'**, this was part of a larger collection of Matchbox 1-75 models, Regular issues and Superfast that had all come direct from the Matchbox factory in the early 1960s. **Sold for £399.99 (Buy it Now).**

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Fun and gam at Midhurs

Well, games, at any rate: at this brand new venue in West Sussex, there was a lot to amuse the boardgame collector, reports **Alwyn Brice**.

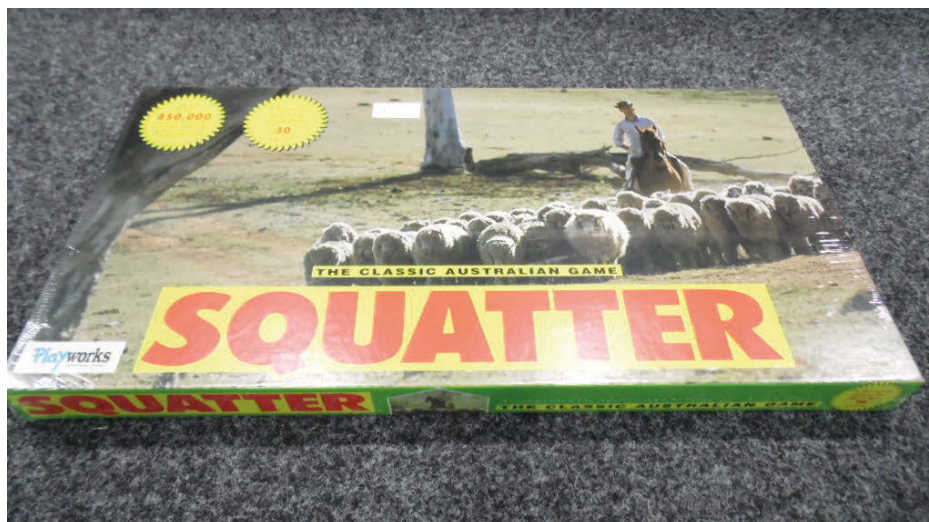
The Midhurst toy fair, held at the end of November, is the latest in Gerry Widdowson's extensive portfolio. Over the last couple of decades he's pretty much sewn up the south-east in terms of modest-sized swapmeets. The event fielded about 30 stalls for its launch and I'm happy to say that it was worth the visit.

I started the rounds with Jim Davison whose stall (or more precisely series of tables – there was plenty of room and light in the leisure centre venue) contained as mixed an assortment of toys that you could ever wish to see. He confesses to being a tractor buff, having collected these vehicles since he was let loose on the real thing at an early age. There were window boxes galore from the likes of Britains and Siku and prices started at £25. He mentioned that to his knowledge there are now five, yes five, swapmeets given over to farming vehicle and accessory themes: could this be an area to watch? His other wares included a very attractive take-apart wooden fort of modest proportions from UK maker Britwood Toys (a new name to me) at £25 as well as the Airfix Pontoon Bridge set at £15. A later set of Airfix Romans, most of which were still on their sprues, was a reasonable £10. He'd also brought along some tinplate and, in fact, was probably the only dealer present to have any. A French Joustra

eight wheeled armoured car would have been battery operated all those years ago and his example was still in quite good condition, with swivelling turret. This was marked at £20 while double that was being sought for the incomplete Australian Wyn-toy tinplate jeep and trailer in military colours. A rare toy over here, I'd have thought, this combination was sound and came with some plastic additions, such as the steering wheel.

Railways, as ever, figured on Mike Obone's stall but on this occasion he'd also brought along some Dinky military vehicles, some from the wartime era, some a little later. They were all a little tired and playworn but none exhibited any metal fatigue. Jeeps were priced at £11; bren carriers were cheaper still while a covered truck with tinplate tilt was £17. He also had an early towable field cooker for which he was hoping £40.

Pelham Puppets will be familiar to most readers, I guess, and it's unusual not to find at least one example at a toyfair these days. They seem to have had quite a lifespan too; clearly puppets never quite went out of vogue. Well, if you like Pelham then you'd have wanted the perfect accessory: the Pelham Puppet Theatre. Boxed, and rarely seen, this set (which originally cost £3.70) comprised various bits of wood, drapes and plastic sections that went together



ABOVE Remember where you saw it first! The game of skill for, well, er, sheep business lovers.



ABOVE A timeless classic, HP Gibson games were made for decades – the first edition of this goes back to 1919.

Charming set of semaphore-equipped scouts seen on Tony Burley's stall.



ABOVE Well-made British wooden castle may have dated from the late 1950s or 1960s.



ABOVE Pentetote in all its (heavyweight) glory: the game had survived amazingly well.



ABOVE Infuriating ball and maze puzzle: here it's golf but there are many other themes out there. Cheap fun for £20?

to provide the requisite stage. Quite delightful, it was marked up at £80.

On to Tony Burley, who as always was wearing a scout's uniform to promote his line in painted boy scout (and girl guide) models. Today, his range comprises four bands and upwards of 40 different castings: the secret, revealed Tony, lies in the arms, of which there are many. This gives much more flexibility to the basic range. His most recent additions were the group of scouts with semaphore flags that, apparently, spelled out the word SCOUT. How's that for a final touch? This neatly-painted set retails at £75.

And so to a newcomer on the swapmeet rounds: Andy McKeown had brought to Midhurst some smaller items, of note a number of the Kellogg's astronauts in various colours. Sadly the

all-important clear plastic helmets had gone astray (as is so often the case) but at £4 each, they were inexpensive enough. His main stock-in-trade was games – which was where I came in.

And what about those games? Well, Andy had several Waddington's examples (Battle of the Little Big Horn, Campaign, Mine a Million and Camelot, all retailing at £8-10) as well as Battling Tops from Ideal, a fast and furious game I recall from the 1970s. Weirdest of all, though, was his mint and sealed game from Oz called Squatter (yes, really) which the box claimed had sold more than 450,000 examples since its launch in the 1960s. And the subject? Well, er, sheep business. Honestly... in retrospect, maybe Australia bought most of the examples.

I spotted not one but two

examples of a later version (1970s?) of Dover Patrol from HP Gibson (this and Tri-tactics can be considered putative wargames of the era); and for the princely sum of £3 you could have chosen between Waddington's Exploration or Swindle (no letters to the Editor, please!). Merit's Oil – the Great Adventure was similarly priced. But the accolade this time went to Jim Chamberlain with his almost-like-new Pentetote, a sort of greyhound roulette betting game. With a sound box, playing mats, instructions and a heavy (cast-iron?) colourful gambling wheel and base, this promised some fun for those long winter evenings. Possibly from the 1930s, it was negotiable around £30. ■

BELOW Proof that tinplate needn't cost a fortune. This (untested) Joustra armoured car certainly displayed well.



Sandown Toy Fair

Rick Wilson, editor of *Diecast Collector*, heads to the UK's greatest toy fair and comes away with more than he bargained for.

I was initially tempted down to the BP Fairs Sandown Toy Fair by David Wright's book launch and the prospect of adding to my collection too, of course. This is one of my favourite collecting events of the year as it's a big one so there is much to see and, as is always the case it seems, I didn't come away empty handed!

As I mentioned above, David Wright's excellent new book, *British Sporting Cars in Miniature*, was a big part of my reason for attending the show. Described as an A-Z of model cars with a sporting theme, this is an essential guide for any model car collector.

Onto satisfying my collecting desires and there was a huge variety on offer, catering for all tastes and budgets. Despite my pockets not being lined with gold, I do enjoy looking out for the rarer and mint items. A good rummage always stirs up plenty of childhood memories too. I never fail to open at least one door to the past with an item that I had completely forgotten about since my formative years and, although I can rarely afford to indulge my desires, it is a joy to do so. With a list of Matchbox Superfast missing from my eclectic 1-75 collection (one of each number from my collecting years to put in my recently acquired Matchbox Club replica stand), I set off in search of my regular hunting tables and managed to cross quite a sizeable number off the list.

There were plenty of mint and boxed diecast delights on display, including some real rarities, such as the Corgi Mini



TABLE PRICE
£3-£5

ABOVE A selection of the Superfast finds crossed off my wish list, but there are still plenty more to go!



A fabulous tinplate model of Sir Malcolm Campbell's 1935 Bluebird in good all round condition. **Table price £565.00.**



A 1966 Daily Express competition prize, complete with protective sleeve and advisory letter. **Table price £300.00.**



An impressive display of superb boxed Dinky, Corgi and Spot-On offerings at good prices. **Table price £various.**



An incredibly hard to find 1967 "Pop Art" Mini Mostest No. 349 in pre-production packaging. **Table price £2,850.**



Enlarged plastic copy of the Dinky Toys No. 283 AEC Merlin Red Arrow by NFIC of Hong Kong. **Table price £12.00.**



A fabulous mint Corgi Major Toys Car Transporter Gift Set 1B was up for a tempting price. **Table price £695.00.**

Mostest. Boxed Corgi gift sets were abundant too, all out of my price range though. One Corgi that was specifically on my list though was a good example of the No. 1127 Simon Snorkel Fire Engine. My mission was successful but it needs a little TLC before it makes it in front of the camera as, in all my excitement, I forgot to check

if both extending mechanisms were fully working. A real rush of blood moment and it just serves as a reminder to always, and I mean no exceptions here, check all the functionality before you pay up and leave the event, however good it looks. A basket case version has since been acquired on eBay for just a few pounds that will serve as

a donor. Lesson learnt though.

Casting the net wider, I came across some real blasts from the past, namely the Fighter Command game by Airfix from 1976 and Subbuteo Snooker Express, also from the mid-seventies. Fighter Command nearly, in fact very nearly, made the journey home! I remember the Subbuteo

Snooker game being rather a frustrating affair, so that was easier to pass up.

I still consider myself quite a model railway enthusiast and have always wanted a simple early tinplate O gauge clockwork set (a bit before my time back in the day). There were plenty on offer, as well as some serious O gauge offerings with Rick-defying price tags, thankfully. But one in particular that I was sorely tempted by was a mint Hornby BR goods set.

Sticking with tinplate, one of my favourite offerings of the show was a marvellous rendition of Sir Malcolm Campbell's final land speed record car, the Campbell-Railton Bluebird from 1935. A little playworn but still an incredible piece to take pride of place in any collection.

As proceedings were beginning to draw to a close, I noticed something that I had never seen before but had an incredibly familiar look about it. Made by NFIC of Hong Kong, I had spied a plastic copy of the Dinky Toys No. 283 AEC Merlin Red Arrow. At 30cm long, it's nearly twice the size of the Dinky but copied right down to the door opening mechanism. Boxed, these rarities can sell for three figure sums but, to add to my three mint Dinky Toys and a Britbus 1/76 scale Merlin, I just had to pick this up as it was priced at just £12, reflecting its spares or repairs condition (front door mechanism needs fixing) and lack of box.

Another great toy fair and a few more bargains added to the collection... again! ■

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

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EVENT GUIDE

■ CIRENCESTER

From model railways to diecast, vintage toys to superhero figures, plus a whole lot more. This warm and welcoming show has something for everyone. Superb home made food and refreshments available, with parking nearby.

- **Venue:** Bingham Hall, 28 Kings Street
- **Time:** 10am to 3pm
- **Entry price:** Adults £2

■ LLANDUDNO

There will be more than 50 model railway and toy collectors/traders from all the UK... the perfect way to spend all that Christmas money burning a hole in your pocket. Or flog those unwanted models!

- **Venue:** Cymru, Llandudno Promenade, LL30 1BB
- **Time:** 10.30am to 3.30pm
- **Entry price:** Adults £2, concessions £1.75, children 75p

■ DONCASTER

It's become a little bit of a festive tradition for us here at the *Collectors Gazette* to head along to Barry Potter's seasonal event - although this time it's not on New Year's Eve, which is a slight shame. Anyway, still a cracking event with plenty of toys on offer.

- **Venue:** Doncaster Exhibition Centre, Leger Way, DN2 6BB
- **Time:** 10.30am to 3pm
- **Entry price:** Adults £4, concessions £3.50

■ NEWARK

What's the best thing to cure a banging head from a potentially rowdy New Year's Eve party? Well, it's a toy fair of course! J&J Fairs' New Year's Day event is always particularly well attended, although perhaps don't speak too loudly to help those sore heads.

- **Venue:** The Showground, Newark, NG24 2NY
- **Time:** 10am to 3pm
- **Entry price:** Adults £3.50, seniors £3, first child £2.50

FAIRS

19 DECEMBER 15

- **Hawkinge**, SRP Fairs, 07739 998012

20 DECEMBER 15

- **Eastleigh**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322
- **Bridgwater**, Ray Heard, 01823 480097
- **Cirencester**, Ronnie Davies, 07708 385061
- **Huntingdon**, J & J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Orpington**, SRP Fairs, 07739 998012

27 DECEMBER 15

- **Birmingham (NEC)**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Llandudno**, Len & Sandra Ricketts, 01492 545053
- **Norwich**, J & D Toyfairs, 07881 555283
- **Worthing**, SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Shildon**, Pennine Models, 01535 642367 or 07966 333605

28 DECEMBER 15

- **Shildon**, Pennine Models, 01535 642367 or 07966 333605
- **Slough**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322
- **Carmarthen**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01634 702757
- **Haydock Park Racecourse**, Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362
- **Spalding**, J & J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Thornbury**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857

29 DECEMBER 15

- **Rayleigh**, SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Bolton**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688

30 DECEMBER 15

- **Doncaster Racecourse**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688

1 JANUARY 16

- **Bridgnorth**, Tony Oakes, 01270 652773
- **Newark**, J & J Fairs, 01522 880383

3 JANUARY 16

- **Eastbourne**, Robert Horscraft, 01323 899879
- **Walsall Wood**, Transtar Promotions, 01922 643385
- **Dartford**, SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Thornaby**, Jim Corr, 07504 035955

6 JANUARY 16

- **South Croydon**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

7 JANUARY 16

- **Thatcham**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322

9 JANUARY 16

- **Cardiff**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01634 702757
- **Hawkinge**, SRP Fairs, 07739 998012

10 JANUARY 16

- **Potters Bar**, Peter Levinson, 0208 2051518
- **Holt**, J & D Toyfairs, 07881 555283
- **Wimborne**, David Rees, 01202 590158
- **Falkirk**, McLaren Models, 01324 624102
- **Orpington**, SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Stafford**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688

12 JANUARY 16

- **Hook**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322

16 JANUARY 16

- **Ashton**, TTC Toy Fairs, 07846 772568
- **Brentwood**, J & J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Pudsey**, John Marshall, 0113 282 4986

17 JANUARY 16

- **Warrington**, Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362
- **Kirkby-in-Ashfield**, Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790

19 JANUARY 16

- **Slough**, Maidenhead Static, 07825 564960

20 JANUARY 16

- **Hoddesdon**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215
- **Burton-upon-Trent**, Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790

23 JANUARY 16

- **Henfield**, SRP Fairs, 07739 998012

24 JANUARY

- **Dudley**, Rewind Collectables, 07969 050421
- **Midhurst**, SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Ipswich**, J & D Toyfairs, 07881 555283

26 JANUARY

- **Tonbridge**, SRP Fairs, 07739 998012

- **Garstang**, Janet Pearson, 01282 439009

30 JANUARY 16

- **Chester** (New Venue), Tony Oakes, 01270 652773
- **Windsor**, Windsor International Toy & Train Collectors Fair, 07825 564960

31 JANUARY 16

- **Barry**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01634 702757
- **Sunbury on Thames**, R M Toys, 02392 381529
- **Colchester**, SRP Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Shepton Mallet**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857

AUCTIONS

27 DECEMBER 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

19 JANUARY 16

- **Billinghurst**, Bellmans, 01403 700858

20 JANUARY 16

- **Warwick**, Warwick & Warwick, 01926 499031
- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

21 JANUARY 16

- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

22 JANUARY 16

- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

27 JANUARY 16

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595

28 JANUARY 16

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595
- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

29 JANUARY 16

- **Thornaby**, Vectis, 01642 750616

30 JANUARY 16

- www.eastbristol.co.uk (on-line auction), East Bristol Auctions, 0117 9671000

■ WINDSOR

The Windsor International Toy Fair has a history that dates back 40 years, when it was one of the biggest events in the UK. Nowadays it's still a well-attended event with up to 160 tables loaded with toys for collectors, including dealers from all over Europe.

- **Venue:** Montem Leisure Centre, Slough, SL1 2QG
- **Time:** 10.30am to 3pm
- **Entry price:** Adults £3, concessions £2.50

■ SHEPTON MALLET

For those in the Somerset area, it's hard to beat Bulldog Fairs' Shepton Mallet event. The January show is expected to feature up to 300 stalls with some of the country's top dealers in attendance. Light refreshments are available.

- **Venue:** Bath & West Showground, BA4 6QN
- **Time:** 10.30am to 2.30pm
- **Entry price:** Adults £3.50, family £7

■ EAST BRISTOL AUCTIONS

Over the past few years we've seen a growing trend for online-only auctions that don't feature a saleroom packed with eager bidders. The latest auctioneer to try out this modern method of selling is East Bristol Auctions. Recently the auctioneer has really started establishing itself well, with some fantastic lots (particularly collectables from the late 1970s and 1980s) so this online sale should certainly be one to watch.

TOY, TRAIN & MODEL COLLECTORS FAIRS
BRIDGNORTH

NEW YEARS DAY FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY

Bridgnorth Leisure Centre, High Town, Bridgnorth, WV16 4ER 10.30am - 3pm

For further details please call Tony Oakes on 01270 652773 or 07825 631323

Admission
£2

**MEET THE STARS IN PERSON AT THE UK's LEADING
COLLECTORS EVENTS AND CONVENTIONS IN 2016!**

27 - 28 FEB: LONDON FILM & COMIC CON (CELEBRATES STAR WARS)
WWW.LONDONFILMANDCOMICCONSPRING.COM OLYMPIA, LONDON

5 - 6 MAR: FILM & COMIC CON CARDIFF
WWW.FILMANDCOMICCONCARDIFF.COM MOTORPOINT ARENA, CARDIFF

12 - 13 MAR: FILM & COMIC CON BOURNEMOUTH
WWW.FILMANDCOMICCONBOURNEMOUTH.COM BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

19 - 20 MAR: FILM & COMIC CON NEWCASTLE
WWW.NEWCASTLEFILMANDCOMICCON.COM METRO RADIO ARENA, NEWCASTLE

22 - 24 APR: CHEVRON 8.3
WWW.MASSIVEEVENTS.CO.UK/CHEVRON83 RADISSON BLU EDWARDIAN HOTEL, HEATHROW

14 - 15 MAY: FILM & COMIC CON BELFAST
WWW.FILMANDCOMICCONBELFAST.COM THE SSE ARENA, BELFAST

21 - 22 MAY: FILM & COMIC CON MANCHESTER
WWW.FILMANDCOMICCONMANCHESTER.COM EVENTCITY, MANCHESTER

4 - 5 JUNE: FILM & COMIC CON BRIGHTON
WWW.FILMANDCOMICCONBRIGHTON.COM BRIGHTON CENTRE, BRIGHTON

25 - 26 JUNE: FILM & COMIC CON EXETER
WWW.FILMANDCOMICCONEXETER.COM WESTPOINT, EXETER

2 - 3 JULY: FILM & COMIC CON BOLTON
WWW.FILMANDCOMICCONBOLTON.COM USN BOLTON ARENA, BOLTON

28 - 31 JULY: LONDON FILM & COMIC CON
WWW.LONDONFILMANDCOMICCON.COM OLYMPIA, LONDON

13 - 14 AUG: FILM & COMIC CON SHEFFIELD
WWW.FILMANDCOMICCONSHEFFIELD.COM MOTORPOINT ARENA, SHEFFIELD

20 - 21 AUG: FILM & COMIC CON GLASGOW
WWW.FILMANDCOMICCONGLASGOW.COM BRAEHEAD ARENA, GLASGOW


3 - 4 SEPT: FILM & COMIC CON BOURNEMOUTH
DETAILS COMING SOON!

10 - 11 SEPT: FILM & COMIC CON BELFAST
DETAILS COMING SOON!

1 - 2 OCT: AUTOGRAPHICA
WWW.AUTOGRAPHICA.CO.UK RADISSON BLU EDWARDIAN HOTEL, HEATHROW

29 - 30 OCT: FILM & COMIC CON CARDIFF
DETAILS COMING SOON!

12 - 13 NOV: FILM & COMIC CON NEWCASTLE
DETAILS COMING SOON!

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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SEE A LIST OF ALL OF OUR EVENTS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.SHOWMASTERSEVENTS.COM

East Anglia's Premier Toy Fairs

J&D Toy & Train Fairs Sunday 10th January

HOLT, Holt Community Centre, Kerridge Way, Holt, NR25 6DN
10.30am - 2.30pm. Tables £20 Public admission: **£1.50**, Children under 14: **Free**

For more details please contact John Parsonage 07881 555283
or Dennis Payne 01953 861348

East Anglia's Premier Toy Fairs

J&D Toy & Train Fairs Sunday 24th January

THE CAMEO HOTEL, Old London Road, Copdock, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3JD
10.30am - 2.30pm. Tables £25 Public admission: **£2.50**, Children: **Free**

For more details please contact John Parsonage 07881 555283
or Dennis Payne 01953 861348

LLANDUDNO TOY & TRAIN FAIR

SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER

VENUE CYMRU Entry: **£2**

Llandudno, North Wales, LL30 1BB
10.30am - 3.30pm Details 01492 545053

EASTBOURNE

Sunday 3rd January

Toy Collectors Fair

East Dean Village Hall, East Dean (just off A259)

East Sussex BN20 0DR 10.00am - 2.30pm

Admission **£1.40** • Under 12s Free
Free parking • Refreshments

01323 899879

TOY & TRAIN FAIR



POTTERS BAR

Sunday
10th January

Elm Court Centre, Mutton Lane,
EN6 3BP. M25 J24

10.30am - 3.00pm

For more details please call Peter or Diane
020 8205 1518

REWIND EVENTS TOY & COLLECTORS FAIR

THE STATION HOTEL

(opposite Dudley Zoo)

Sunday 24th January 2016

ROBIN 2

Bilston

Sunday 31st January 2016

Sunday 27th March 2016



General admission from 10.30am
Adults **£1**. Children under 16 free
Early Bird 9.30am - 10.30am **£5**

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TRANSFORMERS • HE MAN • DINKY • CORGI • HORNEY • MAMCO • SCI FI & MANY MORE**

To book a table or for advance tickets go to **www.rewindeventsuk.com**

TOY & TRAIN FAIRS

ASHFIELD

Sunday 17th January 2016

10am - 3pm

Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Festival Hall, NG17 7DJ

Good access / refreshments / free parking

Next date: 20th March

NOTTINGHAM

Saturday 27th February 2016

10am - 2pm

Bluecoat Academy, NG8 5GY

On ring road, 1½ miles north of Q.M.C

Minutes from M1 - Jct 25 or 26.

Free car parking/light refreshments

Next date: 23rd April



Accompanied u / 16's **FREE** at all our fairs

Speak to Malc on 07951 072790 • **www.tttf.co.uk**



BURTON UPON TRENT

Wednesday 20th Jan 2016

6.30pm - 8.30pm

The Town Hall, Burton-upon-Trent, DE14 2EB

Always a good selection of rail and diecast

Next date: 23rd March

ALFRETON

Friday 5th February 2016

7pm - 9pm

The Leisure Centre, Church Street,

Alfreton DE55 7BD

One of the longest established swapmeets.

Perfect start to the weekend

Next date: 15th April



www.j-jwebbtoysfairs.com

01522 880383



HUNTINGDON SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Int. Indoor Arena, Kings Bush Centre, Wood Green Animal Shelters, London Rd, Godmanchester
PE29 2NH. 10am - 2.30pm >> 230 tables >> 6ft table £29 >> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

SPALDING BANK HOL MONDAY 28TH DECEMBER

Springfields Exhibition Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6ET
10am - 2.30pm >> 150 tables >> 6ft table £28 >> Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

EAST MIDLANDS - NEW YEARS DAY FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY 2016

Newark & Notts Showground, Winthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY
10am - 3pm >> 300 tables >> 6ft table £35 >> Ad £3.50, Sen £3, 1st Ch £2.50

BRENTWOOD SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY

International Hall, Brentwood Centre, Doddington Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9NN
10am - 2.30pm >> 200 tables >> 6ft table £30 >> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

The Exhibition Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA
10am - 2.30pm >> 200 tables >> 6ft table £30 >> Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

YORK RACECOURSE SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

The Knavesmire Stand, York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX
10am - 2.30pm >> 100 tables >> 6ft table £29 >> Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

For bookings and further information
please telephone Lorraine on

01522 880383

New email: **jandjfairs@virginmedia.com**



www.j-jwebbtoysfairs.com



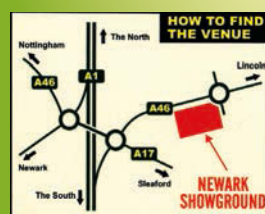
DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL EAST MIDLANDS TOY & TRAIN COLLECTORS FAIR

to be held at THE GEORGE STEPHENSON EXHIBITION HALL,
NEWARK & NOTTS SHOWGROUND, WINTHORPE, NEWARK,
NOTTS NG24 2NY (on the junction of A1/A46 towards Lincoln)

**NEW YEARS DAY
FRIDAY 1st JANUARY 2016**

ONLY ONCE A YEAR - MISS IT AND MISS OUT!

"Always an exciting date on the toy collecting calendar, this very large fair always boasts an excellent selection of old and new toys, trains, models and much, much more. Held in the The George Stephenson Hall which is well lit and spacious with masses of free parking."



10am - 3pm

ADMISSION:

Adults **£3.50**,
Seniors **£3.00**,
First Child **£2.50**

STALLHOLDERS:

Enter from 6.30am. Tables prices at **£35** per 6ft

**300
TABLES**

**Bookings
now being
taken!**

For more information about this fair, please contact
Lorraine on 01522 880383 or **jandjfairs@virginmedia.com**

HODDESDON

Wednesday 20th Jan 7pm - 9pm
Sheredes School, Cock Lane,
Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 8JY
Admission: £1

SOUTH CROYDON

Wednesday 6th Jan 6.30pm - 8.30pm
St John's Community Hall, Upper Selsdon Road,
Selsdon, South Croydon, CR2 8DD
Admission: £1

THEYDON BOIS

Thursday 4th February 7pm - 9pm
Theydon Bois Village Hall, Coppice Row,
Theydon Bois, Nr Epping, Essex CM16 7ER
Admission: £1

For more details please call:
07866 641215

12th TRANSPORT COLLECTORS' FAIR

Saturday 16th January 2016
Pudsey Civic Hall, Leeds LS28 5TA
Near to New Pudsey Station. Ample free parking
Up to 100 stalls selling all kinds of transport related memorabilia,
including books, photographs, tickets and railwayana.
Open: 10am-3pm. Admission: £2. Refreshments available
Organiser: G Burgage-Atter. Tel: 01132 824986

GARSTANG

Tuesday 23rd February

From 6.30pm

Future date: 29th March 2016

KIRKLAND AND CATERALL MEMORIAL
HALL, PR3 0HR Corner A6 and A586
Tel: 01282 439009

ASHTON

Saturday 16th January

Toy & Train Collectors Fair

Ashton Masonic Hall, Jowetts Walk,
Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, OL7 0BB
10.30am - 2.30pm

Admission: £2 (Under 12's FREE) 07846 772568

WIMBORNE

Model Toys & Trains Collectors Fair

Queen Elizabeth's School, Blandford Road (B3082),
Wimborne Minster, Dorset, BH21 4DT

Sunday 10th January 2016

10.15am - 3.00pm

Large FREE Car Park and refreshments

Enquiries to Dave or Jason on (01202) 590158 or 600121

TOY & TRAIN COLLECTORS FAIR WALSALL WOOD

Oak Park Leisure Centre, Lichfield Road,
Walsall Wood. WS9 9PQ
(situated on A461 Walsall - Lichfield Road -
close junction with A452)

Sunday 3rd January

10.30am - 3.00pm Admission: Adults £1.50,
Senior £1.20, Child 60p

Over 65 tables - spacious well lit venue - Buy, sell,
swap collectable toys - Refreshments available

Future dates: 6th Mar, 15th May, 11th Sept, 13th Nov

For table bookings and enquiries please call
Geoff or Linda Price on 01922 643385

www.transtarpromotions.com

CHRIS DYER FAIRS

TOY & TRAIN FAIRS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CARMARTHEN

Bank Hol Monday 28th December
10.30am-3pm
Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Llansteffan
Road, Johnstown, SA31 3NQ
(Admission £1.95/Child or OAP £1.50)

80
TABLES

BARRY

Sunday 31st January
10.30am-3pm
Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street,
Barry, Nr Cardiff CF63 4RU
(Admission £2.00/Child or OAP £1.50)

85
TABLES

CARDIFF

Saturday 9th January
10.30am-3pm
Penarth Leisure Centre,
Andrew Road, Cogan, Cardiff CF64 2NS
(Admission £2.00/Child or OAP £1.50)

120
TABLES

DUBLIN

Sunday 14th February
10.30am-3pm
The Talbot Hotel (formerly Stillorgan Park Hotel),
Stillorgan Road (on main N11 route) Dublin, Ireland
(Admission €4)

80
TABLES

Tel: 01643 702757 / 07966 694579 www.chrisdyerfairs.com

Northern Toy Fairs presents a new collectors Toy Fair for Teeside

Thornaby Academy, Baysdale Rd, Thornaby, Stockton on Tees, TS17 9DB

Sunday 3rd January 2016

Just 3 mins off A19, off A1130 west, Mitchell Ave opposite McDonalds
10.30am - 3pm. Admission £3 Adults. £2 Children/Senior Citizens. Early Bird entry £5

Excellent selection of new and old diecast cars, buses, lorries, toy trains,
soldiers and SciFi toys etc. Buy, sell and swap!

Refreshments • Free car parking

For table hire and more information
contact 07504 035955

Email: northerntoyfairs@hotmail.co.uk



BULLDOG FAIRS

Thornbury Toy & Train Fair

Monday 28th December 10.30-2.30pm
Thornbury Leisure Centre, Alveston Hill, Thornbury, BS35 3JB
Admission: £2.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £5.00 each
Up to 100 Stalls. Children under 16 free with paying adult
Free parking for 1000's of cars. Restaurant now open.



Shepton Mallet Toy Collectors Fair

Sunday 31st January 10.30-2.30pm
Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet BA4 6QN
Admission: £3.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £10.00 each
Up to 300 Stalls. Children under 16 free with paying adult
Free parking for 1000's of cars. Restaurant now open.



Bristol Toy & Train Fair

Sunday 7th February 2016 10.30-2.30pm
Abbeywood Community School, New Road, Stoke Gifford,
BRISTOL. BS34 8SF
Admission: £2.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £5.00 each
Up to 80 Stalls. Children under 16 free with paying adult
Free parking & Light refreshments



Exeter Toy & Train Fair

Sunday 21st February 2016 10.30-2.30pm
Westpoint Arena, Clyst St Mary, EXETER. EX5 1DJ
Admission: £3.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £10.00 each
Up to 300 Stalls. Children under 16 free with paying adult
Free parking for 1000's of cars. Restaurant now open.



Bulldog Fairs 01373 452857 or 07917 125641
www.bulldogfairs.com

SRP TOYFAIRS

HAWKINGE, KENT

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER (Next event: 9th January)
HAWKINGE COMMUNITY CENTRE, HERON FORSTAL AVENUE, CT18 7FT 10am - 2pm.

ORPINGTON, KENT

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER (Next event: 1st November)
CROFTON HALLS, ORPINGTON, KENT, BR6 8PR 10am - 2pm.

WORTHING, W. SUSSEX

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER
CHARMANDEAN CENTRE, FOREST ROAD, WORTHING 10am - 2pm.

RAYLEIGH, ESSEX

TUESDAY 29 DECEMBER
SWEYNE PARK SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX SS6 9BZ 10am - 2pm.

DARTFORD, KENT SUNDAY 3 JANUARY

DARTFORD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE, LOWER HEATH LANE
DARTFORD, KENT, DA1 2LY 10am - 2pm

HENFIELD, W. SUSSEX

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY
HENFIELD HALL, HENFIELD, WEST SUSSEX, BN5 9DB 10am - 2pm



MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX SUNDAY 24 JANUARY

THE GRANGE, BEPTON ROAD, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX, GU29 9HD 10am - 2pm

TONBRIDGE, KENT

TUESDAY 26 JANUARY (Evening Fair)
THE ANGEL CENTRE, ANGEL LANE, TN9 1SF 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

srptoys1@hotmail.co.uk www.srptoyfairs1.co.uk
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: PAULA AND GERRY ON 07739 998012

Steven Clements Fairs

EASTLEIGH

Sunday 20th December

10.30am - 3pm

Fleming Park Leisure Centre, Passfield Avenue,
SO50 9NL. Huge car par. Great cafe

THATCHAM

Thursday 7th January

6.45pm - 8.45pm

Thatcham Catholic Hall, Bath Road, GR18 3AG

SLOUGH

Monday 28th December

10.30am - 3pm

Spirit Centre, Farnham Road, Slough,
SL1 4UT. Free parking, 5 minutes from M4 motorway

HOOK

Tuesday 12th January

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Hook Community Centre, RG27 9NN. 2nd Tuesday
monthly. New venue with huge car park and cafe

Table and chair hire is also available for your event. Please email or call for a quote!

For details and bookings call 01380 725322 or 07958 101891 • Email: clementsairs@aol.com

MONDAY, 28th DECEMBER, 2015

HAYDOCK PARK

THE EXHIBITION CENTRE,

Haydock Park Racecourse (1 mile M6 Jun 23) WA12 0HQ

10.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.

UP TO 80 STANDS - Admission: Adults £2.00 Children 50p

SUNDAY, 17th JANUARY, 2016

WARRINGTON

WARRINGTON COLLEGIATE,

Winwick Road, Warrington WA2 8QA (on the A49 - M62 Junc. 9)

10.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.

UP TO 80 STANDS - Admission: Adults £2.00 Children 50p

ENQUIRIES BARRY STOCKTON

0151-334 3362

www.barrystocktonfairs.co.uk

The International

WINDSOR TOY & TRAIN COLLECTORS FAIR

Sat. 30th January 2016

Montem Leisure Centre

Montem Lane, Slough, Berks SL1 2QG

10.30am - 3.00 pm

Up to 150 tables loaded with a huge variety of
modern and vintage toys and collectables

Refreshments available

Admission £3.00 - Concessions £2.50

Earlybird (from 9.00am) £7.00

Organised by Britain's oldest and widest based model club

The Maidenhead Static Model Club

For table bookings and enquiries:

Tel 07825 564960

Future dates: 4 June and 24 September

www.windsortoyfair.co.uk

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Obsolete

Our monthly gaze into the weird but wonderful world of collector/dealer **Obsolete Oz**. Buying and selling since the 1970s, Oz has developed a great knack for unearthing some amazing finds from flea markets, antique fairs, car boot sales, rubbish skips and even the local tip.

Hi folks, doing a bit of research is all part of the fun of toy collecting and it's always great when you manage to unearth new information. This was the case when I treated myself to a 24b Matchbox Weatherill Hydraulic Excavator a few weeks back, which I bought from a swapmeet for thirty quid. It interested me because it had grey plastic wheels unlike my older 24a metal wheeled version and also because, in my opinion, this model is an all-time diecast classic. Anyway I decided to do a bit of research into its history and eventually

of Fred Weatherill's early hydraulic loading shovels and, as such, was a real up-to-date vehicle of its day. It is not surprising that Lesney took an interest in this vehicle as I then discovered that Weatherill Hydraulic was based in Tottenham, North London, where it would surely have been well known to the Lesney owners, who were always keen to measure up new models. Who knows, they probably knew Fred Weatherill personally, as another Weatherill Hydraulic loader was chosen by Lesney to launch the King-Size series.

Another classic diecast to come my way recently was a

after the war. The majority of the post war Dinky 'Speed of the Wind' cars were finished in silver but there are known to be a few red ones out there to look out for... although I've never managed to find one!

Another good buy was a small job lot of ABC Cinema Club badges that I found in a retro/vintage shop close to home. Remember those mad Saturday morning cinema clubs full of excited screaming kids? You had to collect all nine different letters in the triangles to spell out 'ABC MINORS'. They only cost me a quid each so I was pleased to get my hands on these little smashers.

other Army vehicles, it was a very good seller so there are plenty of them still around. This brought back memories of my dear father who was a wireless operator during the war. No matter how old dad got he never forgot his Morse code; it seemed to be impregnated in his brain for his entire life.

Still on the subject of Austin trucks, a Dublo Dinky Loadstar in great nick with its original box found a buyer willing to pay my £35 asking price. Sadly a Minic Lyons Tea Articulated Box Van didn't have its original box or a winding key but still made a very respectable £45. It sold to a guy who collects anything tea related including toys, tins, signs and vintage tea packets.

A nice little Co-Operative biscuits sample tin, which was probably once given away by a travelling salesman, made a healthy £38 and was quickly scooped up by a tin collector who has bought tins from me for years.

Wartime memorabilia is still selling well and a plane identification booklet made a fiver, which was good considering I bought it for a mere 20p! Another good profit was made from a wartime tiddly-winks game that I picked up a few months back for a fiver and finally sold it for 20 notes to a guy who runs a museum... another good bit of profit.

Well that's about all for another month folks. Wrap up warm as you venture out bargain hunting on these cold mornings and, as always, be lucky! **CG**

It brought back memories of my dear father who was a wireless operator during the war. No matter how old dad got he never forgot his Morse code; it seemed to be impregnated in his brain for his entire life.

discovered that a guy called Fred Weatherill founded Weatherill Hydraulics way back in 1950. He had worked for Chaside Engineering who specialised in rope operated front loaders built on Fordson skid units. Apparently Fred recognised the great potential in hydraulics after seeing a hydraulic lifting machine while on holiday, so he left Chaside and set up his own company that totally abandoned the previous rope haul principal.

He did well for himself for a few decades before the Japanese flooded the market with excavators. The Matchbox toy is based on one

Dinky Racing Car that I was more than happy to scoop up from a car boot sale for a fiver. I always remember this being one of the first Dinky Toys I ever owned as it was among a few diecast toys passed down to me by my uncle in the 1950s. 'Speed of the Wind' was built for and driven by Captain George Eyston in the 1930s and achieved quite a few long distance records during its day. It was in production by Dinky for 21 years both before and after the war, which seems amazing because the actual car was destroyed during a bombing raid in the blitz and never completed a record attempt

Another little beauty I was pleased to get my hands on was a superb Clarnico toffee tin showing an elegant Edwardian lady. I had to splash out 20 quid to get my hands on it but it's a really pretty tin and hard to find in this condition. The name 'Clarnico' was derived from a clever amalgamation of Clarke, Nickolls and Coombes Ltd, whose sweet factory was based in London.

Back to good old Matchbox and I couldn't turn down an Austin Radio Truck (68a) that a customer offered me for £25. How could I refuse that? Released by Lesney in June 1959, along with a load of



These ABC Minors Cinema Club badges were a real bargain for £1 each.



ABOVE No box and no key but this attractive Brimtoy articulated truck still sold to a tea memorabilia collector for £45.

Oz did some interesting research after bagging this Matchbox Weatherill Hydraulic Loader for a reasonable £30.



In fantastic condition, this Clarnico sweet tin was worth every penny of the £20 Oz shelled out for it.



ABOVE Oz couldn't resist this Matchbox Army Wireless Truck when it was offered to him by a regular customer.



Bought by a museum owner, this wartime tiddly-winks game was in super condition and sold for £25.



LEFT This scarce little Co-Operative sample tin was snapped up by a tin collector for £38. The Co-Op's biscuit works were based in Manchester.



This Dinky Toys 'Speed of the Wind' Racing Car was scooped up from a boot sale for a fiver.

This near mint/boxed Dublo-Dinky Austin Wagon soon found a buyer willing to pay Oz's £35 asking price.



COLLECTORS GAZETTE

TOP TIPS

PREPARE FOR WINTER

With the cold winter weather upon us again it's time to battle the darkness and cold weather once more. My latest gadget is a nifty little wind up torch that was cheap but works really well and means no more batteries to buy. You might also try carrying a small flask in your rucksack when trawling those giant fairs and fleamarkets. I also recommend a good pair of fingerless gloves... why not make out a list for Santa?



LEFT

This fascinating WW2 plane identification booklet sold for a fiver giving Oz a nice little profit!

CLASSIFIEDS

RETAILERS

DEVON

EXETER ANTIQUE CENTRE on the Quay. Don't miss the first (or any!) instalment of an excellent lifetime's private collection of Dinky Toys (English & French), Corgi Toys, Spot-On Toys, Matchbox, Hot Wheels, Britains and Continental diecast toys, etc now being sold from Cabinet 7 at the Antique Centre on the Quay, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4AP. The collection includes rare and unusual items for sale. There is an eclectic mix of collectables at the centre and it is well worth a visit at any time. Open 7 days a week from 10am to 5pm. A cafe is situated within the centre. Tel: Brian **01803 865581**. www.exeterquayantiques.co.uk

KINGSBRIDGE ANTIQUES & CRAFT CENTRE - Holiday in South Devon this year? Then why not visit Kingsbridge Antiques & Craft Centre on the corner of Church Street & Ebrington Street TQ7 1DE, just 5 minutes walk from the Quay Car Park and the Bus Station. An ever changing stock of Antiques & Collectables including Toys & Models, Books & Militaria. Open Monday to Saturday. Tel: **01548 856002** Website: www.kingsbridgeantiques.co.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE TOY MART Buying and selling obsolete Corgi, Dinky, Railways, toys and Tinplate etc. • Tewkesbury Antiques Centre, Tolsey Lane, Tewkesbury, GL20 5AE Open 7 days. • Stuff Collectors Centre, Lansdowne Chambers, 18 Newerne Street, Lydney, GL15 5RF. Open 7 days. Telephone: **07973 768452**. Email: toymart@fsmail.net

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COSMIC CART WHEELS Buying and selling. Collectable toys old and new (Dinky, Corgi, Britains, Hornby, Star Wars, Transformers, Doctor Who, Marvel, etc). Retro computer games (Nintendo, Sega, Playstation, etc). Other memorabilia (football shirts, comics, Mario, Sonic, transport related, TV & Film related, board games etc). Play nostalgia from generation to generation. Browsers welcome. Cosmic Cart Wheels, 103 Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2QR (4 minutes walk Victoria Centre) Tel: (mob) **07779 210531** • Ask for Dave. Email: cosmiccartwheels@btinternet.com Normal hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm. Please check in advance if making a special journey.

KIT KRAZY Largest selection of plastic kits in UK from 1950s to date, plus much more. Collections bought or swapped. Email: steve@kitkrazy.com Send 70p stamps for lists to: 303 The Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 8DT. T/F: **020 8298 7177**. W: www.kitkrazy.com

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LONDON

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NORTHERN IRELAND

MY OLD Toybox For collectable diecast and kits, Matchbox, Dinky, Corgi, Action Man, Star Wars, sci-fi, Subbuteo, etc. The Old Toybox, Unit 14, Smithfield Market, Belfast BT1 1JE. Tel: **07719 100483** Email: james1gilliland@hotmail.com

com www.myoldtoyboxbelfast.co.uk

STAFFORDSHIRE

THE TUTBURY JINNY We buy and sell new and second-hand Model Railways including - Hornby, Wrenn, Triang, Marklin, Bachmann, Lima, Dapol, Farish, LGB, etc. Contact: Barry Tutbury, Mill Mews, Lower High Street, Tutbury, Nr. Burton-upon-Trent. Tel: **01283 814777**

SUSSEX

RETRO-VERVE COLLECTABLES, Brighton Flea Market, Upper St James St, BN2 1JN - Units 5/6 (1930s -1980s) - all sorts from Old Diecast, Tinplate toys, Ladybird Books, Subbuteo, Boats, Action Man, Scalextric, Board Games and Music, to TV/Film and Cricket/ Sports Memorabilia + Much, Much More... Come and Browse. **01273 624006**.

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